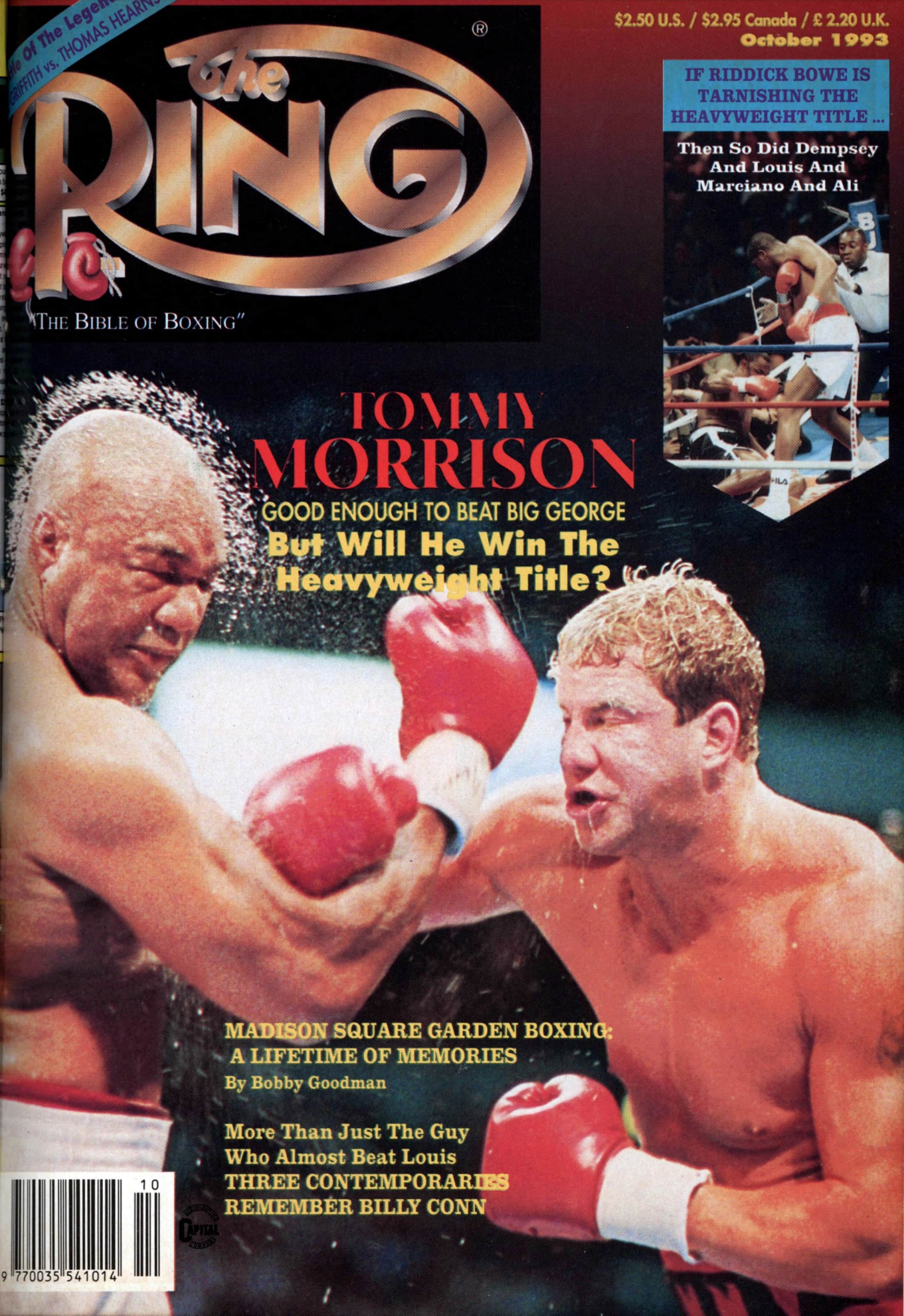

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GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT BIG GEORGE
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3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

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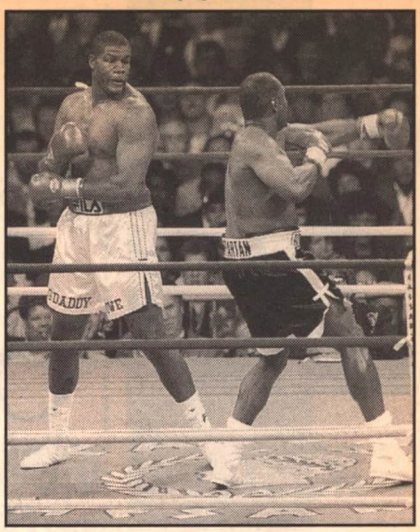

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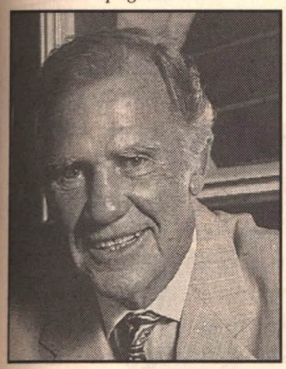

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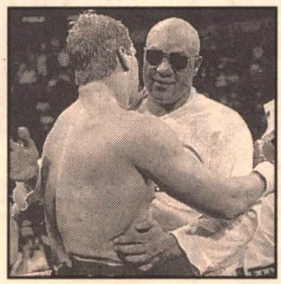

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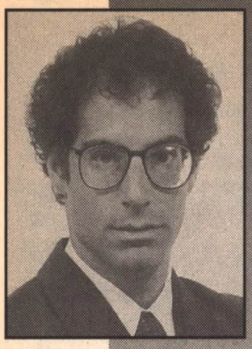

# Ringside

Only half the boxing year has passed, and I've already decided that 1993 won't be remembered as The Year of the Heavyweight. Don't bother rattling off the possibilities for August, September, October, November, and December. (Headline: *Foreman And Holmes To Clash At Retirement Home!;* Headline: *Bowe And Lewis Hurl Danishes At Each Other During Heated Press Conference!;* Headline: *Moorer Celebrates Victory By Punching Out Lou Duva!*) The big boys have been dropping bombs, all right. Stink bombs.

Don't get me wrong; I like a good heavyweight brawl as much as the next violence-craving sociopath. In fact, I run a tape of George Foreman-Ron Lyle before I do my morning sit-ups. But heavyweights make memorable fights about as often as Marlon Brando makes memorable movies.

Last I looked, Rock Newman, Frank Maloney, Dan Duva, Seth Abraham, Don King, and Jay Larkin, none of whom tape their hands before they go to work (I would, however, recommend protectors), were still blocking a Riddick Bowe-Lennox Lewis showdown. That just might turn out to be a special fight. But if Bowe and Lewis wait much longer, only bad things can happen.

Some invisible power must have decided that Bowe-Holyfield, 1992's Fight of the Year, was enough excitement for a year or two. Or that all shootouts will be prohibited until Mike Tyson returns to the ring. As a result, we've been forced to settle for Bowe-Michael Dokes, Bowe-Jesse Ferguson, Lewis-Tony Tucker, Morrison-Foreman, and Larry Holmes making a fool out of himself. Please stop, the excitement's killing me.

Fortunately, smaller fighters have made bigger fights. If you limit yourself to heavyweights, you've chosen a diet of hamburger meat when you could be feasting on steak. This year, at least, the middles and welters and even the junior flyweights have bailed the heavys out. If you think it's been an uneventful six months, you've forgotten Carbajal-Gonzalez, Whitaker-McGirt, Jackson-McClellan, the "Grand Slam" in Mexico City, James Toney, Oscar De La Hoya, and Roy Jones. And remember, Whitaker-Chavez is still to come.

I know this is a bit radical, but how about a ban on heavyweight fights until 1994? Sure, Bowe-Holyfield II figures to be an action-packed scrap, but is an upset even a remote possibility? Would you really miss Lewis-Frank Bruno? Can't you live without Alex Garcia's comeback? The rest of the names never seem to change, and they offer little promise. Boneboredom Smith ... Tony Tubbs ... Renaldo Snipes ...

*Renaldo Snipes?*

**Steve Farhood**
**Editor-in-Chief**

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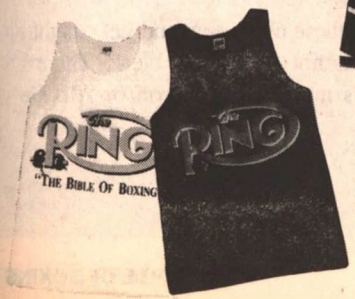

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# Come Out Writing

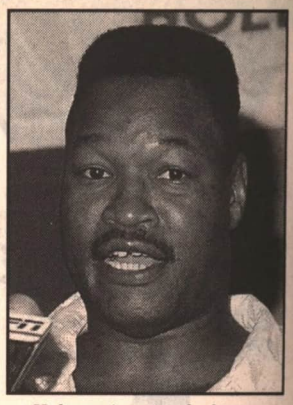
**We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034**

## LARRY LEGEND

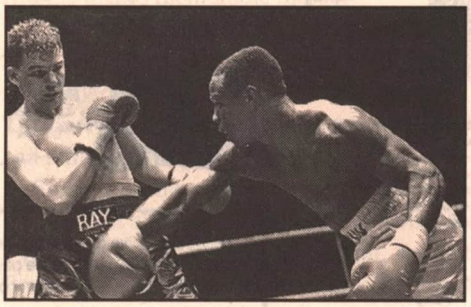
On Jeff Ryan's list of causes for irritation ("Ryan Out Loud," June 1993), he included Larry Holmes. Maybe Holmes has lost a lot of his skills. And maybe he's not one of the best anymore. However, people like me still like watching him perform. Why do you think the USA Network cleans up in the ratings when he headlines one of their shows?

I think you should give this guy a break. He's amazing for a man his age, which all the more shows how great a fighter he was at his peak.

JIM CIMAROLLI
Sulphur Springs, TX



*Holmes: Amazing for his age*



*Eubank attacks Ray Close*

## BREAKING THE EUBANK

Has boxing gone to hell? I think so. I'm referring in particular to super middleweight Chris Eubank. This alleged world champion (the WBO variety) has faced nothing but Mickey Mouse fighters since defeating Nigel Benn. I fail to see why THE RING rates him third at 168 pounds. I've seen all of Eubank's fights in Britain since his victory over Benn. Apparently, the WBO doesn't have the courage to make their champions fight decent opponents. I'm totally disgusted; boxing has sunk to an all-time low.

PETER DEUTSCHEN
Dublin, Ireland

## TOMORROW'S HEAVYWEIGHTS

"Just as Mike Tyson was the fighter of the '80s, Jeremy [Williams] will be the fighter of the '90s."

Did Bill Cayton actually say that ("New Faces," June 1993)? Did Williams actually compare his boxing skills to Marvin Hagler and his accomplishments to Oscar De La Hoya?

Wow! Imagine the embarrassment they'll share when Williams gets knocked out by the first top-10 fighter he faces. That also goes for the other highly praised young heavyweight prospect, Larry Donald. This *extremely* limited fighter is convinced he's the second coming of Muhammad Ali. He's not even the second coming of *Murad Muhammad*!

*Williams: Definitely not "The Greatest"*

Are we that starved for a new superstar that we turn to these characters and get caught up in the hype? Well, not to worry, the heavyweight future is not completely bleak. There's a young, undefeated knockout artist on the way up. He's not another Tyson or Ali. He's Shannon Briggs, and he just might be a future champion.

PETE FEMIA
Bricktown, NJ ■

Volume 72, No. 10 October 1993

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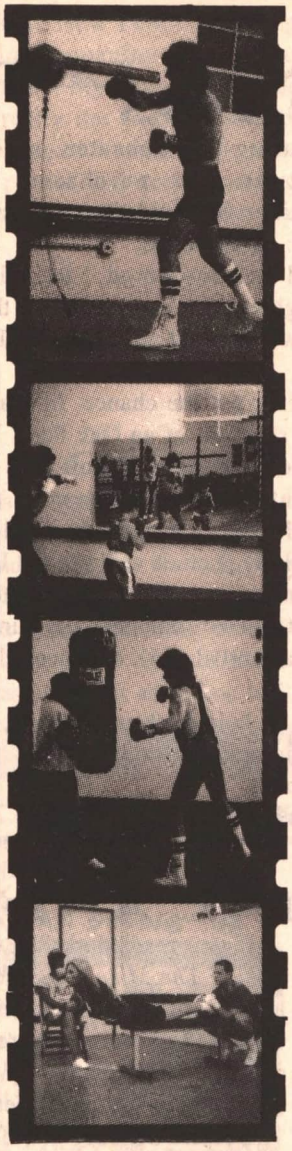

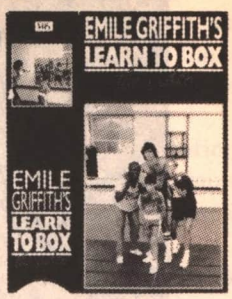


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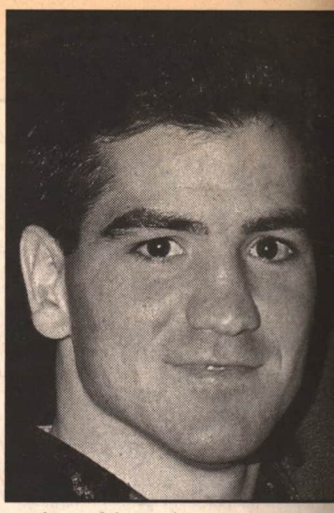


## VINNY LETIZIA: 1972-1993

Upon hearing that unbeaten junior welterweight Vinny Letizia had purchased a motorcycle, manager/trainer Bobby Salerno reacted exactly how you'd figure: He exploded.

"I yelled and screamed," he said. "I told him, 'You're a fighter. You can't ride that thing.' We agreed that in two weeks we'd talk about it. Then a few days later he told me he was gonna sell it."

Letizia never got the chance. In May, he was riding the motorcycle when hit by a car that had sped out of an Oak Park, Illinois, parking lot. The 21-year-old Letizia, a resident of nearby Cicero, Illinois, was instantly killed.

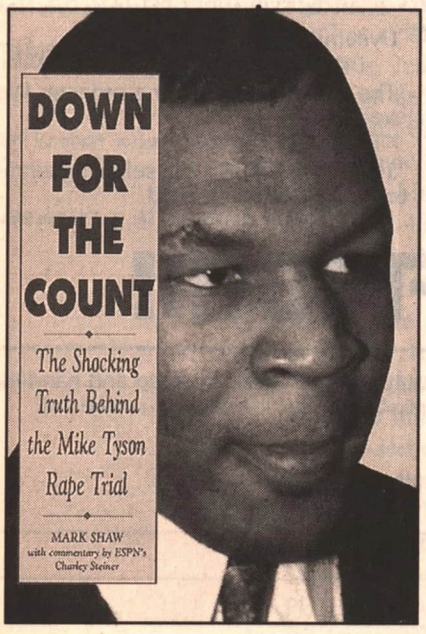
"We felt a great sense of loss, but also of being cheated," said Chicago promoter Ernie Terrell, who frequently featured Letizia. "He was just getting ready to gel. He was born in Italy [Letizia came to the United States at age three], and when he fought, all the Italians came to watch him. You'd swear he was Rocky Marciano reincarnated. He was short 5 '4 ½", and he could punch like you wouldn't believe."

Letizia was 16-0-1 (15), and, according to Salerno, five or six fights away from the top 10.

"He used to hold back in the gym, and he'd get insulted if he was matched with someone who wasn't good enough," Salerno said. "He definitely could've been a world champion."

**—Steve Farhood**

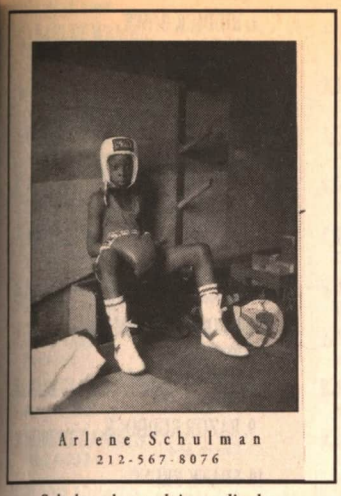
## TRIAL AND ERROR




If you read Mark Shaw's *Down For The Count: The Shocking Truth Behind The Mike Tyson Rape Trial* (Sagamore Publishing), you'll come away with two distinct impressions. First, Tyson should not have been convicted of raping Desiree Washington, and second, had Shaw, a former criminal defense attorney, been Tyson's lawyer, the former heavyweight champion would have been acquitted.

Despite the fact that Tyson's trial was amply covered by the media (Shaw reported from Judge Patricia Gifford's courtroom for ESPN, CNN, and *USA Today*), the author presents an intriguing perspective. His background gives instant credibility to his analysis, and he does well in presenting often-complex legal issues in layman's terms. Unfortunately, he seems determined to criticize Vincent Fuller, Tyson's $5,000-a-day attorney, on every other page. Moreover, he repeatedly relates his subject to the William Kennedy Smith rape trial, the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill hearings, and the Rodney King and Lemrick Nelson Jr. trials. The comparisons are only occasionally relevant, and as a result, the theme is terribly overdone.

*Down For The Count* is a decent read. Just keep one thing in mind: If you're expecting to learn what really happened in room 606 of the Canterbury Hotel in Indianapolis on July 19, 1991, you'll be disappointed. Mark Shaw was no closer to that room than you were.



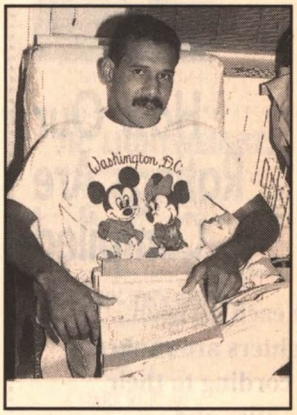

*Schulman's work is on display*

# IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

In 10 years as a boxing writer and photographer, Arlene Schulman has contributed to THE RING, *Inside Sports*, the *Village Voice*, and *The New York Times*. Her most interesting work is her mood-filled photos of gym scenes, which are on display at Aurora in New York City through September 10.

"There's a lot happening in a boxing gym," she said. "There's dedication, perspiration, fatigue. My photos are all portraits of nobodies. The odds are against them. They're really the underbelly of the sport. And what intrigues me most is their eyes. You can see dreams, hope, and sadness."

Schulman's photos and accompanying text will be featured in her first book, *The Prize Fighters*, to be published by Lyons & Burford in the fall of 1994.

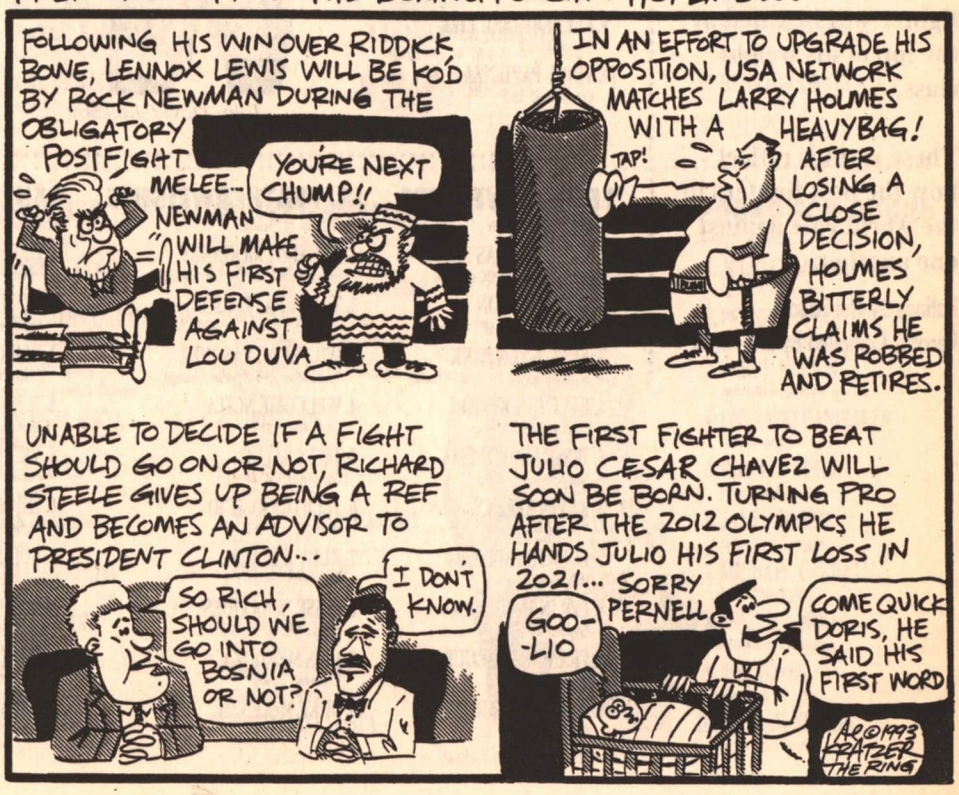



*Rosario is having legal problems*

# OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Former WBA junior flyweight champion **Francisco Quiroz** was shot dead by a policeman during a bar brawl in Santo Domingo. The Dominican was a mediocre 9-9-1 when he won the title in 1984 ... **Mario Rivera Martino**, a correspondent for THE RING for 45 years, has been replaced as Puerto Rico's boxing commissioner by **Francisco Valcarcel**. According to Rivera Martino, the change was brought about by his actions against the locally based WBO, which, in July 1992, sanctioned a light flyweight title fight on the island between **Josue Camacho** and **Eduardo Vallejo**. Vallejo's record was presented as 10-2, but according to Rivera Martino, recordkeeper **Ralph Citro** had the Mexican at 2-6 ... Matchmaker/manager **Johnny Bos** is suing WBC super bantamweight champion **Tracy Patterson**, claiming an oral agreement entitles him to 10 percent of the fighter's recent purses. **Floyd Patterson**, Tracy's father, says that because Bos didn't choose the opponents for Patterson's last two fights, he doesn't deserve any money ... After his shocking seventh-round kayo loss to **Calvin Grove**, former triple-crown champion **Jeff Fenech** plans to retire ... Former lightweight and junior welterweight champion **Edwin Rosario** was charged in Puerto Rico with disturbing the peace in an incident involving his parents. Rosario chose to go to a state prison instead of entering a drug rehabilitation and psychiatric treatment center. ■

## AL KRATZER'S VIEW



# The Ring Ratings

**For Period Ended**
**June 15, 1993**

## How Our Ratings Are Compiled

**In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.**

**Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.**

**These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.**

**Ratings By The Editors**
**Records Compiled By Eric Armit**

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

*Weight Unlimited*

1. RIDDICK BOWE
   Fort Washington, MD *34-0 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. LENNOX LEWIS
   England *23-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. EVANDER HOLYFIELD
   Atlanta, GA *28-1*
4. TOMMY MORRISON
   Merriam, KS *36-1*
5. MICHAEL MOORER
   Detroit, MI *32-0*
6. TONY TUBBS
   Redondo Beach, CA *34-4*
7. GEORGE FOREMAN
   Marshall, TX *72-4*
8. OLIVER McCALL
   Chicago, IL *22-5*
9. RAZOR RUDDOCK
   Canada *27-4-1*
10. FRANK BRUNO
    England *36-3*

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 160 pounds*

1. ROY JONES
   Pensacola, FL *22-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. GERALD McCLELLAN
   Freeport, IL *28-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. REGGIE JOHNSON
   Houston, TX *34-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. JULIAN JACKSON
   Virgin Islands *46-2*
5. THOMAS TATE
   Houston, TX *28-2*
6. LAMAR PARKS
   Greeneville, SC *24-1*
7. BERNARD HOPKINS
   Philadelphia, PA *22-2*
8. CHRIS PYATT
   England *37-3*
9. FREDERIC SEILLIER
   France *33-4-2*
10. VINNY PAZIENZA
    Cranston, RI *33-5*

*John David Jackson*

## JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 154 pounds*

1. TERRY NORRIS
   Mission Valley, CA *34-3 (WBC Champ)*
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
   Argentina *43-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. GIANFRANCO ROSI
   Italy *57-3 (IBF Champ)*
4. JOHN DAVID JACKSON
   Seattle, WA *28-0*
5. VERNON PHILLIPS
   New York, NY *19-5*
6. GILBERT DELE
   France *33-3-1*
7. CARL DANIELS
   St. Louis, MO *30-1*
8. AARON DAVIS
   Bronx, NY *37-1*
9. LAURENT BOUDOUANI
   France *23-1*
10. SIMON BROWN
    Germantown, MD *37-2*

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 126 pounds*

1. GOYO VARGAS
   Mexico *29-3-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. TOM JOHNSON
   Detroit, MI *31-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. YUNG KYUN PARK
   South Korea *24-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. PAUL HODKINSON
   England *22-2-1*
5. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
   San Antonio, TX *26-0-1*
6. KEVIN KELLEY
   Flushing, NY *34-0*
7. LUISITO ESPINOSA
   Philippines *31-6*
8. COLIN McMILLAN
   England *23-2*
9. FRANCISCO SEGURA
   Coachella, CA *22-6*
10. BABY SUGAR ROJAS
    Colombia *37-6-1*

## JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

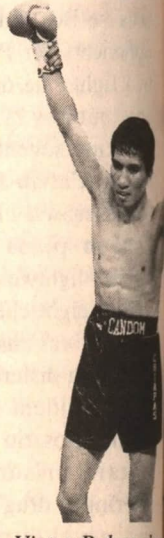
*Weight Limit: 122 pounds*

1. KENNEDY McKINNEY
   Las Vegas, NV *23-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. TRACY PATTERSON
   Highland, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
   Puerto Rico *36-6-3 (WBA Champ)*
4. WELCOME NCITA
   South Africa *31-1*
5. JESUS SALUD
   San Diego, CA *44-5*
6. JULIO GERVACIO
   Puerto Rico *26-3-2*
7. RUDY ZAVALA
   Rosemead, CA *21-1-2*
8. JESSE BENAVIDES
   Corpus Christi, TX *36-3-1*
9. LUIS MENDOZA
   Colombia *34-4-2*
10. DUKE McKENZIE
    England *33-4*

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 118 pounds*

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
   Laredo, TX *34-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. JUNIOR JONES
   Brooklyn, NY *28-0*
3. ELIECER JULIO
   Colombia *23-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. JUNG IL BYUN
   South Korea *10-0 (WBC Champ)*
5. VICTOR RABANALES
   Mexico *33-11-2*
6. JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
   Japan *8-1-1*
7. EDDIE COOK
   Las Vegas, NV *18-2*
8. ISRAEL CONTRERAS
   Venezuela *35-3-1*
9. HAROLD MESTRE
   Colombia *16-2*
10. RAFAEL DEL VALLE
    Puerto Rico *14-0*




*Victor Rabanales*

## CRUISERWEIGHTS

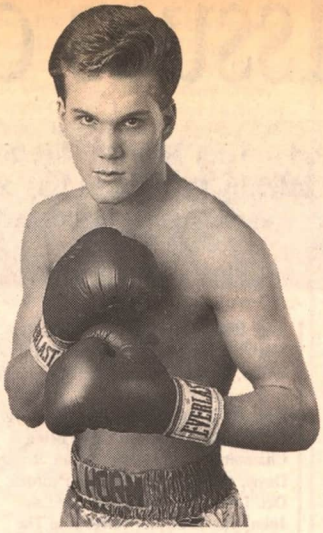
*Weight Limit: 195 pounds*

1. ANACLET WAMBA
   France 39-2 (WBC Champ)
2. ORLIN NORRIS
   Campo, CA 36-3
3. BOBBY CZYZ
   Montgomery County, NJ 40-5 (WBA Champ)
4. AL COLE
   Spring Valley, NY 22-1 (IBF Champ)
5. ARTHUR WILLIAMS
   Las Vegas, NV 19-1-1
6. NATE MILLER
   Philadelphia, PA 22-3
7. AKIM TAFER
   France 16-3
8. MARCELO FIGUEROA
   Argentina 30-3
9. ROBERT DANIELS
   Miami, FL 23-2-1
10. DENNIS ANDRIES
    England 43-10-2

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

*Weight limit: 175 pounds*

1. VIRGIL HILL
   Bismarck, ND 35-1 (WBA Champ)
2. HENRY MASKE
   Germany 20-0 (IBF Champ)
3. JEFF HARDING
   Australia 23-1 (WBC Champ)
4. PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS
   Mansfield, OH 33-5-2
5. LEEONZER BARBER
   Detroit, MI 17-1
6. MIKE McCALLUM
   Brooklyn, NY 44-2-1
7. FRANK TATE
   Houston, TX 32-3
8. IRAN BARKLEY
   Bronx, NY 30-8
9. ERNESTO MAGDALENO
   Westminster, CA 15-0-1
10. EGERTON MARCUS
    Canada 11-0



*Darrin Van Horn*

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 168 pounds*

1. JAMES TONEY
   Ann Arbor, MI 38-1-2 (IBF Champ)
2. MICHAEL NUNN
   Davenport, IA 41-1 (WBA Champ)
3. CHRIS EUBANK
   England 36-0
4. NIGEL BENN
   England 33-2 (WBC Champ)
5. TIM LITTLES
   Flint, MI 22-0
6. VICTOR CORDOBA
   N. Ireland 18-5-2
7. DARRIN VAN HORN
   Lexington, KY 53-3
8. TONY THORNTON
   Glassboro, NJ 31-5-1
9. FRANK LILES
   N. Hollywood, CA 23-1
10. ANTOINE BYRD
    Los Angeles, CA 23-4-1

## WELTERWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 147 pounds*

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Norfolk, VA 32-1 (WBC Champ)
2. CRISANTO ESPANA
   N. Ireland 29-0 (WBA Champ)
3. BUDDY McGIRT
   Hauppauge, NY 58-3-1
4. MAURICE BLOCKER
   Germantown, MD 34-3 (IBF Champ)
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
   Mexico 46-0
6. STEPHAN JOHNSON
   Brooklyn, NY 22-4-1
7. DAVID GONZALEZ
   Houston, TX 32-2-1
8. LARRY BARNES
   Mt. Vernon, NY 28-1
9. FELIX TRINIDAD
   Puerto Rico 19-0
10. SANTOS CARDONA
    Puerto Rico 27-3

## JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 140 pounds*

1. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
   Mexico 87-0 (WBC Champ)
2. JUAN COGGI
   Argentina 61-2-2 (WBA Champ)
3. CHARLES MURRAY
   Rochester, NY 29-1 (IBF Champ)
4. KOSTYA TSZYU
   Australia 8-0
5. ZACK PADILLA
   Azusa, CA 17-1-1
6. CARLOS GONZALEZ
   Mexico 36-1
7. TERRENCE ALLI
   Linden, NJ 52-8-2
8. HECTOR LOPEZ
   Tarzana, CA 25-2
9. FRANKIE RANDALL
   Morristown, TN 47-2-1
10. CARL GRIFFITH
    Lorain, OH 27-2-2

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 135 pounds*

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
   Mexico 28-0 (WBC Champ)
2. FREDDIE PENDLETON
   Miami, FL 34-17-4 (IBF Champ)
3. TONY LOPEZ
   Sacramento, CA 42-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. RAFAEL RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 36-1
5. SHARMBA MITCHELL
   Takoma Park, MD 29-0
6. TRACY SPANN
   Plainfield, NJ 27-2-1
7. JOEY GAMACHE
   Lewiston, ME 30-1
8. JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY
   France 44-4-2
9. LEAVANDER JOHNSON
   Atlantic City, NJ 18-0-1
10. MIGUEL JULIO
    Colombia 23-1-1

## JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 130 pounds*

1. AZUMAH NELSON
   Ghana 36-2-1 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
   Los Angeles, CA 27-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
   Puerto Rico 29-3 (IBF Champ)
4. CALVIN GROVE
   Coatesville, PA 43-5
5. GABE RUELAS
   Arleta, CA 33-2
6. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
   Montebello, CA 8-0
7. REGILIO TUUR
   Whitestone, NY 32-2-1
8. MANUEL MEDINA
   Mexico 47-4
9. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
   Argentina 34-1-1
10. RENATO CORNETT
    Australia 23-1-1

## JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 115 pounds*

1. SUNG KIL MOON
   South Korea 19-1 (WBC Champ)
2. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
   Japan 21-0 (WBA Champ)
3. JULIO BORBOA
   Mexico 19-4 (IBF Champ)
4. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
   Thailand 42-3
5. ROBERT QUIROGA
   San Antonio, TX 20-1
6. JOHNNY BREDAHL
   Denmark 18-0
7. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
   Mexico 25-0
8. VINCENZO BELCASTRO
   Italy 24-5-3
9. CESAR SOTO
   Mexico 35-5-2
10. JOEL LUNA ZARATE
    Mexico 21-1

## FLYWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 112 pounds*

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
   Japan 15-0 (WBC Champ)
2. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
   Thailand 14-0 (IBF Champ)
3. DAVID GRIMAN
   Venezuela 15-1 (WBA Champ)
4. RODOLFO BLANCO
   Colombia 26-7-1
5. DAVE McAULEY
   Ireland 18-3-2
6. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
   Blythe, CA 33-3-1
7. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
   Mexico 23-11-2
8. SCOTTY OLSON
   Las Vegas, NV 23-1
9. ERIC GRIFFIN
   Jasper, TN 9-0
10. MARK JOHNSON
    Washington, D.C. 14-1

## JR. FLYWEIGHTS

*Weight Limit: 108 pounds*

1. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
   Phoenix, AZ 27-0 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. MYUNG WOO YUH
   South Korea 37-1 (WBA Champ)
3. HUMBERTO GONZALEZ
   Mexico 35-2
4. HIROKI IOKA
   Japan 22-3-1
5. LEON SALAZAR
   Panama 15-3-1
6. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
   Mexico 34-4-3
7. SHIRO YAHIRO
   Japan 16-0-1
8. JOSE DeJESUS
   Puerto Rico 26-2-1
9. DOMINGO SOSA
   Dominican Republic 19-1
10. ROBINSON CUESTA
    Panama 23-1

*Julio Cesar Chavez*

## POUND FOR POUND

*Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound for Pound*

1. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
   Junior Welterweight
2. PERNELL WHITAKER
   Welterweight
3. TERRY NORRIS
   Junior Middleweight
4. ORLANDO CANIZALES
   Bantamweight
5. RIDDICK BOWE
   Heavyweight
6. JAMES TONEY
   Super Middleweight
7. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
   Junior Flyweight
8. SUNG KIL MOON
   Junior Bantamweight
9. ROY JONES
   Middleweight
10. AZUMAH NELSON
    Junior Lightweight

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**Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future.** Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

**Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes.** Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

**Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks.** Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

**March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler.** Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

**April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!"** Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

**June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.'** Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

**July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan.** Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

**Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special.** Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

**Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion.** Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

**Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men.** Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

**Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho.** Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

**Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action.** Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

**Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title.** Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

**March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns.** Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

**APRIL 1985**

**April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program.** Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

**May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action.** Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

**June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action.** Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

**July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb?** Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

**Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale).** Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

**Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior?** Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

**Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again.** Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

**Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast?** Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

**Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds.** Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

**Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion.** Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

**Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato.** Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

**March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry.** Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

**April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title.** Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

**May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast.** Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

**June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene.** Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

**July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won?** Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

**Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet?** Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

**Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win?** Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

**Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes?** Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

**Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World.** Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

**April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue.** Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

**May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year.** Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

**June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony?** Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

**July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die.** Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

**Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style.** Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

**Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future?** Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

**Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously!** Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

**Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown.** Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

**Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys.** Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

**Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby?** Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

**Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide.** Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

**March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History."** Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

**April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year.** Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

**May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson."** Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

**June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest!** Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

**Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan.** Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

**Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again!** Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

**Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory?** Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

**Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!"** Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

**Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom.** Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

**Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez.** Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

**March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray?** Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

**May 1989: The Best Of '88.** Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

**Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68.** Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

**Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson:** Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

**March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters** (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

**April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year** (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

**June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World.** Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

**July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield.** Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

**Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever?** Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

**Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation?** Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

**Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990.** Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

**Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past?** Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

**Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

**Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules.** Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

**Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay.** Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

**March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ.** Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

**April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color).** Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

**May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century.** Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

**June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez.** Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

**July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter.** Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

**Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill.** Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

**Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go?** Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

**Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment?** Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

**Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why.** Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

**Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

**March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights.** Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

**April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top?** Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

**May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney.** Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

**June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now?** Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

**July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot?** Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

**Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There."** Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

**Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends?** Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

**Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls.** Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

**Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion?** Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

**Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen . . . Will You Watch It?** Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

**Jan. 1993: Slammin' n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One.** Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

**Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis.** Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

**March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts.** Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

**April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year.** Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).

**May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now?** Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

**June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman.** Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).

**July 1993: Pernell Whitaker Asks, "Who's Number One Now, Julio?"** Plus: Carbajal-Gonzalez, Richard Steele, The Brawl At The Great Wall, Michael Moorer, Chavez-Haugen (color).


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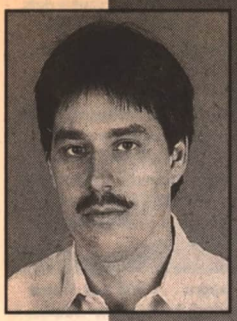


# Ryan Out Loud

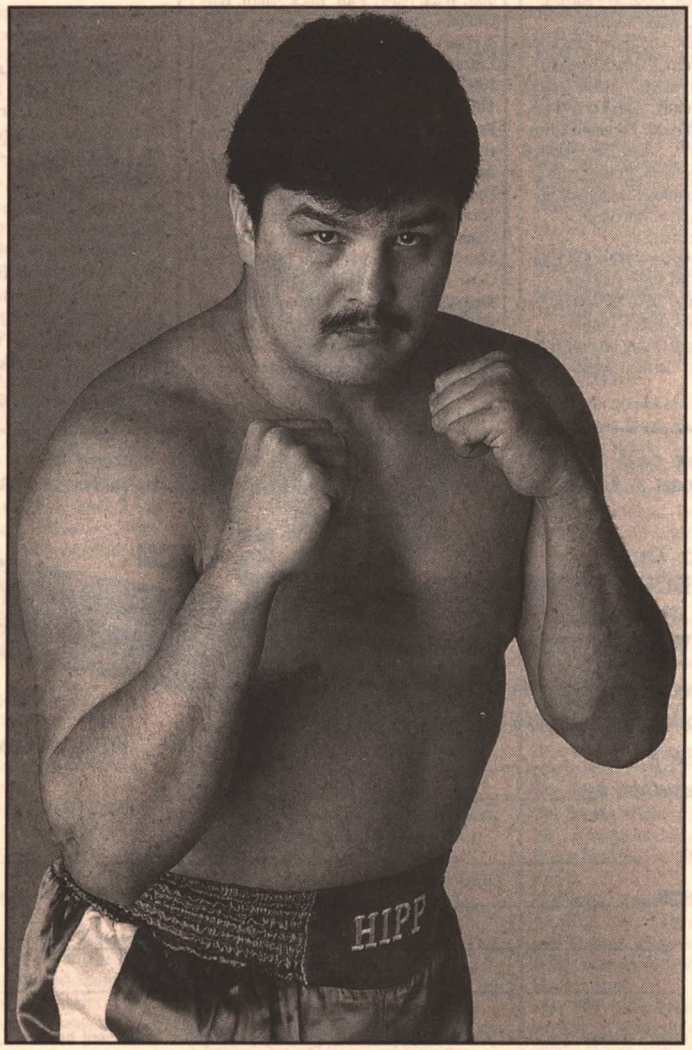
By Jeff Ryan

## PLAYING POLITICS

Correct me if I'm wrong—no, wait a second. Let *me* correct *you*. It is *you* who has been the verbal cavalier, you who has spoken so disrespectfully and so politically incorrectly all these years. Your loose lips may not have sunk ships, but they have sunk the identity, self-respect, and ethnic pride of so many in this sport. If Hillary Clinton heard the way boxing people talk, she wouldn't be baking her cookies, she'd be tossing them.

How ironic that politically correct speech hasn't yet infiltrated the one environment where politics is king. Or, too often, King. Boxing just doesn't get it. It still labels Asians "Oriental" champions. It still has "Great White Hopes" and "fat" guys and "bums" and round-card "girls."

In 1993, "Indian" Joe Hipp's robe should read "NATIVE AMERICAN JOE HIPP." (Fitting all that extra lettering wouldn't be a problem. If you're familiar with Hipp's size, you know that there is room on his back for the first three chapters of *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee*.) And it's never too late to right past wrongs. Take a bottle of Wite-Out and a Bic to your old record books. If they list Marvin Hagler's nickname as "The Brockton Blackbuster," change it to "The Brockton African-American Buster." (By the way, I think the name Wite-Out is still politically acceptable, but I'll check on it to be sure.)



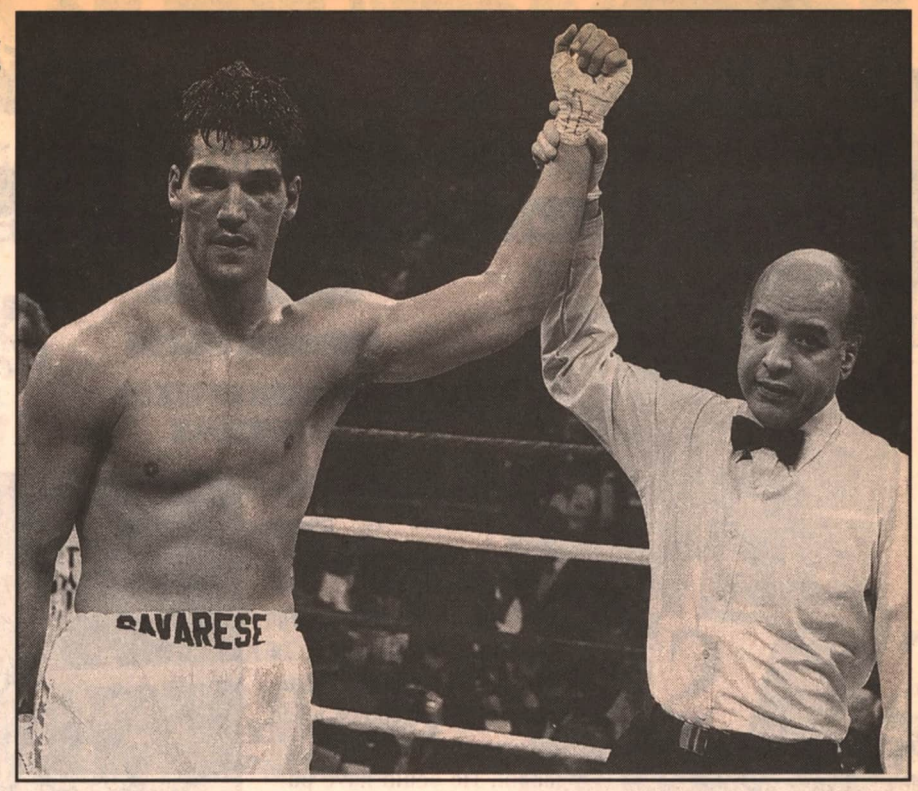

*In a politically correct world, "Indian" Joe Hipp would be known as "Native American" Joe Hipp.*

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of offending people, some of whom are dangerous when dissed. If the rest of you want to lag behind the times, so be it. Being the progressive thinker that he is, your hard-working columnist (Irish/Polish-American journalistic ends-meeter) has developed his own politically correct language for the Sweet Science. It has already been programmed into my computer, so you could say that my p.c. is now p.c.

It's about time that we scrap those offensive labels like ...

**Bleeders:** Think about it: A man is no more able to choose the texture of his skin than the color of it. Freddie Pendleton wishes he had been born with eyebrows like Brooke Shields. Vinny Pazienza wishes he didn't have to use Nu-Skin as an aftershave. I dream of the day when a man is judged not by the color of the gauze pressed against his lacerated face, but by the content of his character.

From now on, those who cut easily will




*Don't dare call heavyweight Lou Savarese a big white stiff. From now on, he should be referred to as a "flexibly oppressed Caucasian."*

be referred to as **the epidermally disadvantaged.**

**Fat guys:** Like it's their fault or something. Doesn't anyone realize that it's all in the genes? (Please, no jokes about George Foreman ravaging a pair of Levis.) Babe Ruth could eat 18 hot dogs and steal second base. If a babe like Ruth Roper ate 18 hot dogs, she'd be too listless to steal ... oh, never mind.

Metabolism makes a difference. Michael Carbajal can eat like a horse and not gain weight. Tony Tubbs just watches The Belmont Stakes and he puts on 20 pounds.

Slobs? Blobs? No, our hefty heroes are **the metabolically challenged.**

**Cheapskates:** When Bob Arum decides to go all-out for a press conference, he springs for the day-old powdered sugar donuts instead of the two-day-old plain ones. Thomas Hearns, who is wealthy enough to give Ma Bell a Mother's Day present, has been known to call writers collect. And countless fighters will invite you into their homes without offering you so much as a glass of tap water. Utility bills, you know.

But, hey, if these tightwads didn't behave this way, if they burned bucks with abandon, the press would be labeling them modern-day Joe Louises and calling them stupid for descending into financial ruin. We writers may have dry mouths and bigger phone bills, but **the economically prudent** have peace of mind.

**Big white stiffs:** Some political clarity is needed here. I'm not talking about a corpse who is big and white, like a Ken Lakusta. Instead, I'm referring to those big, white guys who move like they've been starched in a Chinese (Asian?) laundry. Think of a Lou Savarese.

If there is a place in boxing for strawweights, PunchStat, and Jorge Paez' barber, then we can accept more favorably those fighters who can't move laterally and bite their mouthpieces at the same time. Or, as they will be known henceforth, **flexibly oppressed Caucasians.**

**Bums:** If someone is 10-26, it's usually not because he wants to be. Sometimes he starts his career as a winner, but a bad decision here, an untimely cut there, and pretty soon he's branded a steppingstone. He gets fights only against people certain to beat him, and his bad record snowballs to the point where avalanche warnings are issued wherever he goes.

A word like "bum" shows man's inhumanity to man, and, heaven knows, these fighters have experienced enough of that in the ring. If the loser's bracket is the only place they ever seem to gain entry when they go knocking in the cold, cruel boxing world, maybe we should name them **the win-column homeless.**

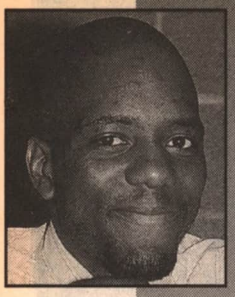
**Leeches:** You see pitiful wannabes and hangers-on who crowd dressing rooms and disrupt weigh-ins, but I see an entourage unemployment rate that is only two percent. The bigger the champion's ego, the more jobs created. Are all these people really needed in a fighter's camp? Absolutely.

The proliferation of titles alone has created economic opportunity for the guys who carry champions' belts into the ring. And because a fighter's psyche is so delicate, there can never be too many characters screaming, "You're the best, man, the best!" while he pulls on his trunks and sweatsocks. No pun intended, but the word "leeches" sucks. Let's try **peripheral support personnel.**

**Homebodies:** Pazienza, Tony Lopez, and Joey Gamache get a bad rap for never wanting to leave home, with or without their American Express cards. Has anyone stopped to consider their feelings? Maybe they can't stand airline peanuts, microscopic bars of hotel soap, drinking water that doesn't agree with their systems, or the annoying habit of forgetting to bring the toothpaste and then having to pay $8 for a tube at the gift shop. They're not agoraphobics, chickens, or stubborn connivers. No, they're **the preferentially domestic.**

Never let it be said that boxing's clout isn't political. However slurred the words may sometimes be, from now on, they should be the politically correct ones.

Pass the cookies, Mrs. C. ■



New Faces

# "Fatal" Freddie Ladd

## *Welterweight*

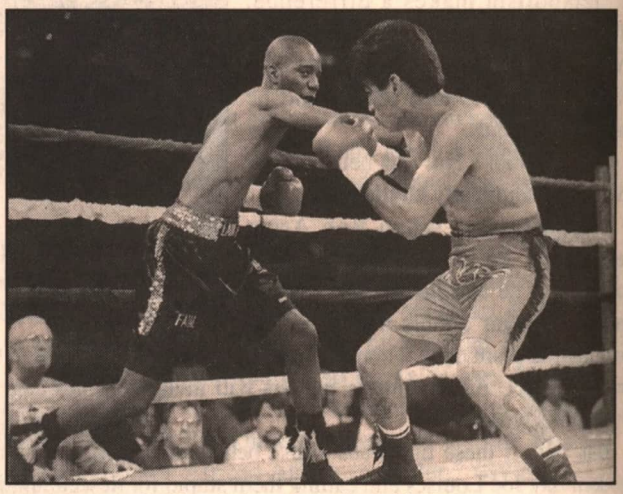
**By Tommy Deas**

Freddie Ladd had the chance to be a banger, but he opted to be a boxer. The 21-year-old prospect from West Memphis, Arkansas, a suburb of Memphis, Tennessee, made his choice when he was a senior in high school. He could have pursued a career in the ring, or he could have banged the drums in a college marching band.

"I had four scholarship offers, but I turned them down because I wanted to box," he said. "I thought I was too small to play sports and I love music, so I also wanted to get in the band. I used to walk around and beat on my mom's table."

Now Ladd beats on fellow welterweights. With a record of 23-0 (17), he is savvy beyond his years. Still, he remains in his boxing infancy. His amateur career, if it could be called that, was heavy on gym time and light on competition.

"I started him out when he was 10," said Leland "Red" Fortner, Ladd's manager and a longtime Memphis clubshow promoter. "He had only two amateur fights, and then I turned him pro. The amateur program here is dead. I promote the fights here, and I can match him right. I held him back because of his age."



*Ladd made things hairy for Baldo Herrera*

Now Ladd is beyond holding back. He is in the midst of a four-fight deal with Don King, who has recently been promoting major shows in Memphis, and hopes to cash in by landing a better contract with impressive undercard showings.

"I trained three years [as an amateur] without a fight," said Ladd. "I was training at a pro gym. Then I won two fights, and people were saying, 'Stick around for the Olympics.' That didn't interest me too much. I wanted to be a world champion. I wanted to box since second grade. John Tate is from West Memphis, and he visited my class and spoke. After that I always wanted to box."

Ladd got no discouragement from his father, a Baptist preacher who has a small church in rural Mississippi.

"I'm kind of nervous until I see something about who he's going to fight. Then I feel good after the first round," said Rev. Cornelius Ladd, who himself had 28 pro fights. "Some of the congregation goes to see him sometimes. They think it's a good thing."

Ladd fancies himself a boxer-puncher, but so far has impressed more with his slick skills than his power. He has fast hands, is a solid combination puncher, and is able to use his legs to control the action. He also has picked up moves from sparring sessions with the likes of Simon Brown,

*(Continued on page 59)*

## PRO RECORD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **1990** | | |
| March 6 | Jackie Bedwell, Memphis | KO 1 |
| April 3 | Billy Outley, Memphis | KO 2 |
| May 1 | Larry Haskins, Memphis | KO 1 |
| June 5 | Samuel Abernathy, Memphis | KO 1 |
| Aug. 7 | Vernon Garrett, Memphis | KO 2 |
| Sept. 4 | Lafayette Lawson, Memphis | W 12 |
| Nov. 6 | Billy Outley, Memphis | KO 3 |
| Dec. 4 | Kevin Johnson, Memphis | KO 10 |
| **1991** | | |
| Jan. 8 | Tommy Jeans, Memphis | KO 5 |
| Feb. 5 | John Alford, Memphis | KO 2 |
| March 5 | Rocky Vires, Memphis | KO 5 |
| May 30 | Reese Smith, W. Memphis, AR | W 12 |
| July 2 | Tim Payton, Memphis | W 10 |
| Sept. 3 | J.D. Dobbins, Memphis | KO 2 |
| Oct. 1 | Tim Bonds, Memphis | KO 5 |
| Dec. 2 | Jarvis McMillan, Memphis | KO 6 |
| **1992** | | |
| March 3 | Anthony Bryant, Memphis | W 10 |
| May 2 | Matt Bowman, Memphis | KO 6 |
| July 8 | Floyd Williams, New York City | W 6 |
| **1993** | | |
| Jan. 30 | Larry Sutton, Memphis | W 8 |
| March 2 | Donny Meadows, Memphis | KO 3 |
| April 6 | Anthony Montana, Memphis | KO 3 |
| April 23 | Baldo Herrera, Memphis | KO 3 |

| RECORD: | FIGHTS | WON | LOST | DREW | KO |
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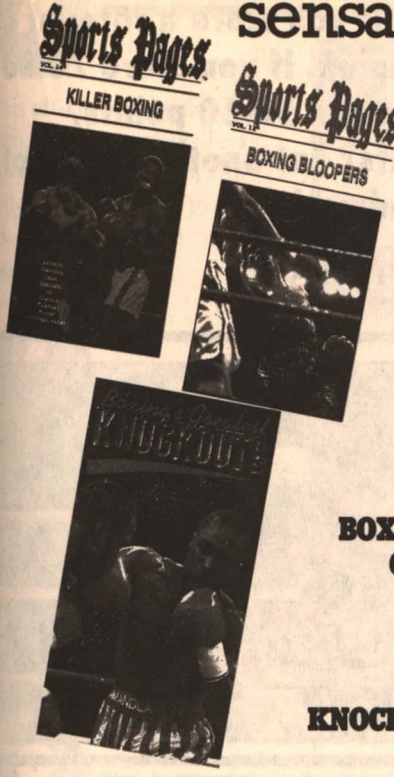


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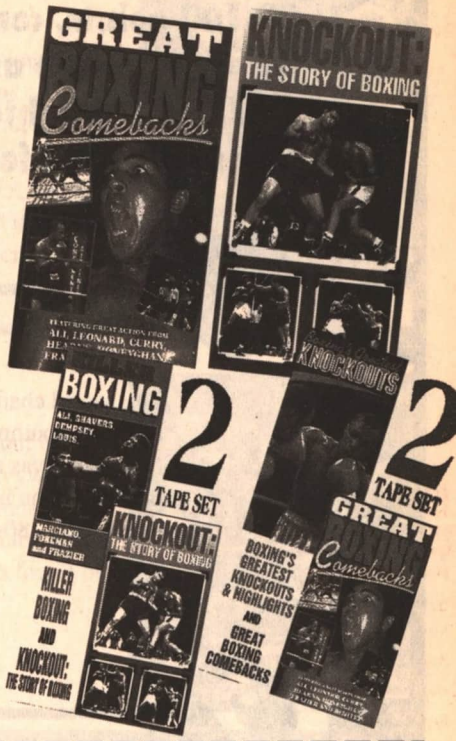


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THE RINGS EXCLUSIVE

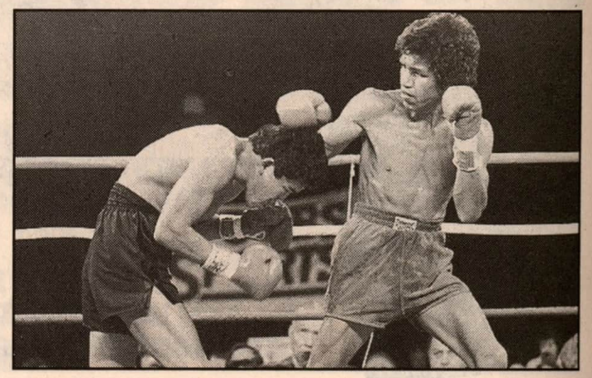
# PHOTO QUIZ TEST

**Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.**

THIS MONTH: SOUTHPAWS

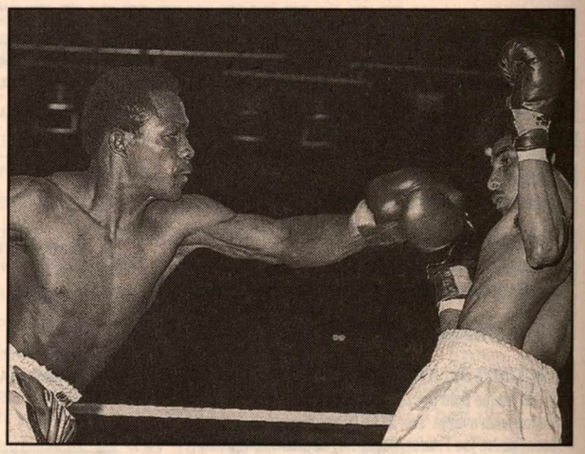
## 1

This world champion, shown pawing at fellow southpaw Rolando Navarette, was among the 130-pounders who heated up the division in the early-'80s.



## 2

Based on the other side of the pond, this Antigua-born junior middleweight, pictured in 1977 vs. Tony Lopez (no, not *that* Tony Lopez), became a world champion.



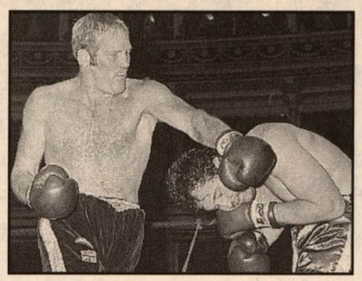
## 3

Let's stay in England a while longer. This middleweight, shown outpointing Larry Paul in 1975, won the world title, and was then dethroned by another southpaw.

# YOUR BOXING IQ

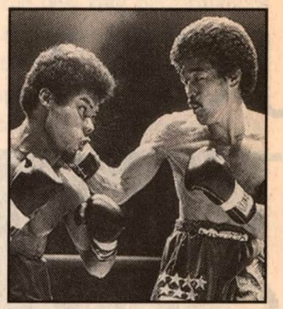
## 4

This oft-kayoed British big man, shown stopping Terry Krueger in 1975, is one of only two southpaws to have fought for the world heavyweight title.



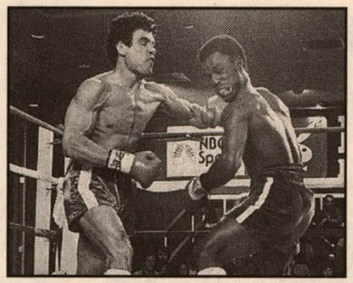
## 5

Was this left-hander the greatest junior flyweight of all-time? Shown banging Alfonso Lopez in 1979, he made 13 successful defenses of the WBA crown.



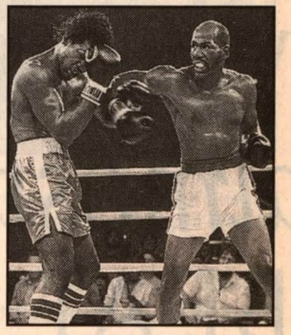
## 6

Nice shot! (The punch *and* the photograph.) As far as southpaws go, this middleweight, shown bopping Curtis Parker, was among the toughest.



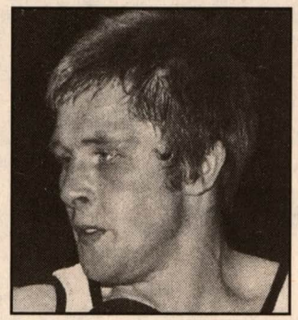
## 7

With or without hair, this light heavyweight was a sensational offensive fighter, as Johnny Davis found out in 1984.



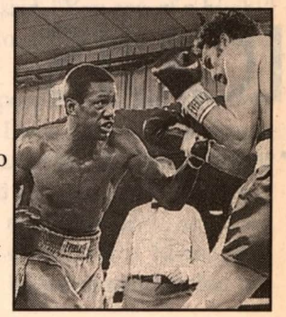
## 8

Our last British left-hander (we promise). This underrated boxer won the lightweight title in 1979. The photo was taken in 1968, while he was still an amateur.



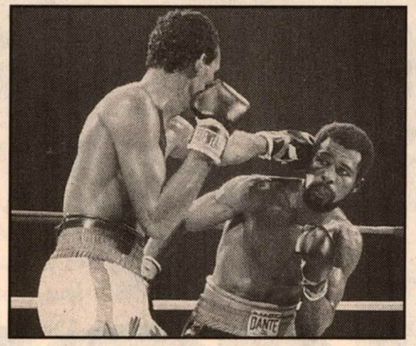
## 9

This quick and classy southpaw was supposed to dominate the '80s. He was good enough to kayo Norberto Figueroa in 1981, and win a world title three years later, but drugs helped bring him down.



## 10

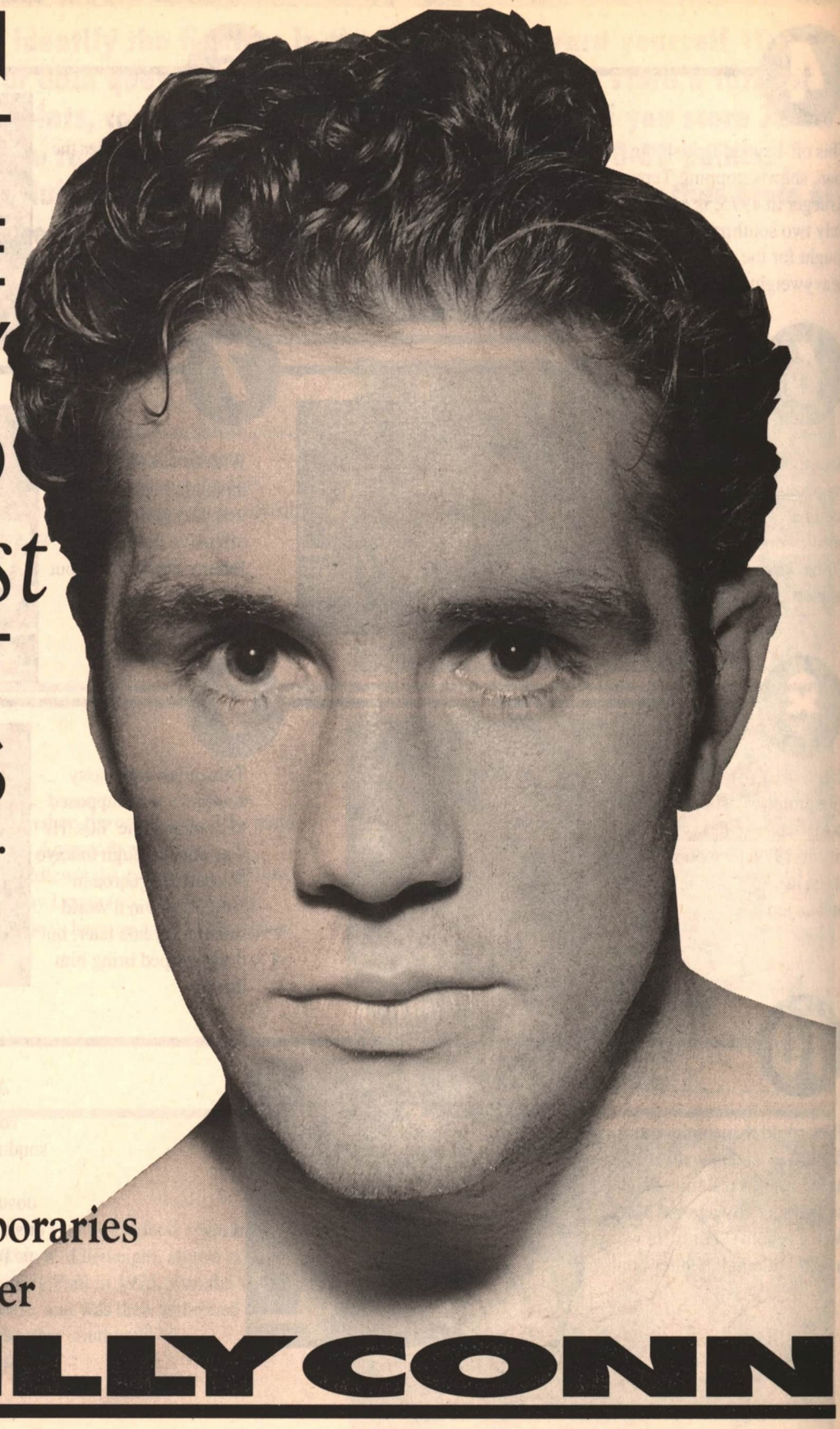
How could this southpaw fight so lackadaisically against Wilfred Benitez and so energetically against Mark Medal (photo)? Hint: He won a world title in the latter bout.



**ANSWERS:**

1) Bazooka Limon
2) Maurice Hope
3) Alan Minter
4) Richard Dunn
5) Yoko Gushiken
6) Mustafa Hamsho
7) Marvin Johnson
8) Jim Watt
9) Johnny Bumphus
10) Carlos Santos

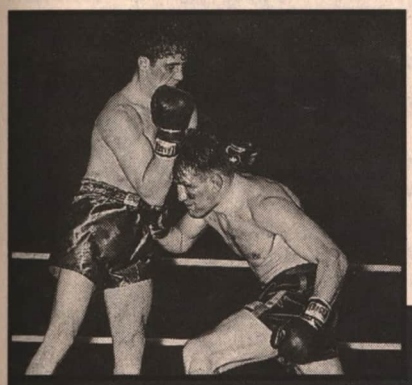
# MORE THAN JUST THE GUY WHO *almost* BEAT LOUIS



Three contemporaries remember

# BILLY CONN

*You think things aren't the same anymore? Tony Zale is living in a nursing home, and Kid Gavilan and Sandy Saddler haven't been doing too well. Sugar Ray Robinson and Rocky Graziano have left us. And now Billy Conn, who died in May at 75 in his native Pittsburgh, is gone, too.*

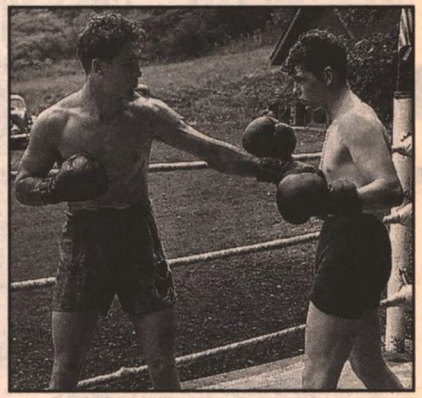


*newspaper clips just doesn't cut it. So you pick up the phone and dial. For Billy Conn, we connected with three lifers, Harry Markson, who headed boxing at Madison Square Garden, Teddy Brenner, who is regarded as the best matchmaker of all-time, and Murray Goodman, who has worked for more than 60 years as a journalist and publicist. You hope you catch them at a good time. Then you let them talk.*

# HARRY MARKSON

Billy was, in my mind, the best light heavyweight I ever saw, and I saw those days they had that huge metal microphone hanging over the ring, and in the fourth or fifth round, Conn says to Cooper, "C'mon, Henry, fight a little. We're stinkin' out the f___in' joint!" The whole Garden heard it!

Some of the best ring performances at the time came at the Pioneer Gym on West 44th Street. Billy used his brother Jackie as a sparring partner. Jackie was a pro, too, but one of moderate skills.

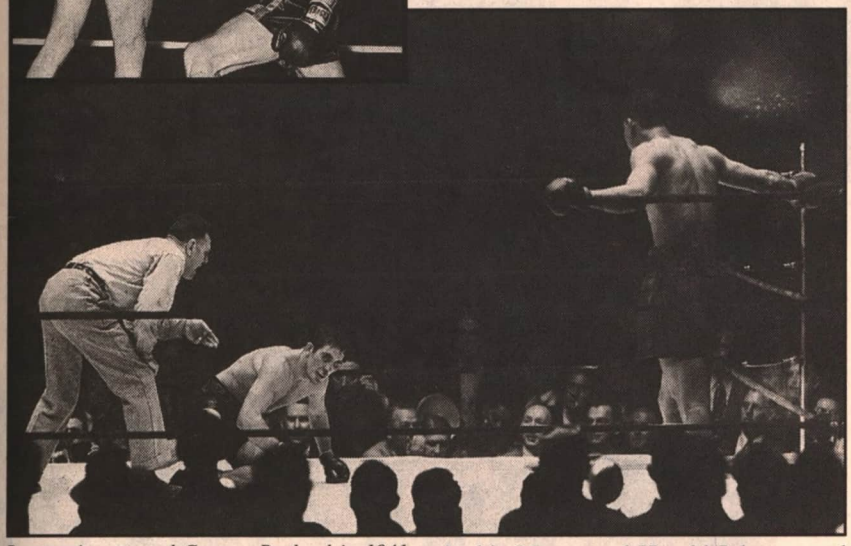


*Some of Conn's most entertaining ring moments came during his sparring sessions with brother Jackie (right), also a pro boxer.*

The battles they put on were classics. One time Billy knocked Jackie down, and Jackie just looked up from the canvas and said, "You son of a bitch!" Billy just loved to fight. He reveled in it.

A lot of people remember Billy only for the Joe Louis fights, but he fought a lot of great fights and great fighters. He and Fred Apostoli were what you'd call heavy middleweights, and their first fight, which was a 12-rounder, was such a bristling contest that the

*(Continued on page 59)*



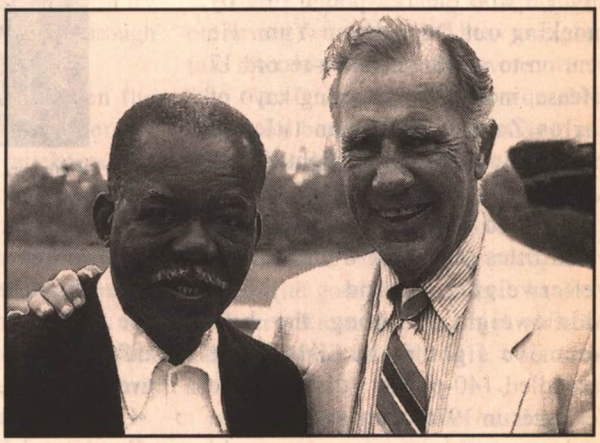
*By stopping rugged Gunnar Barlund in 1941 (top), Conn proved he was ready for Louis. But after boxing brilliantly against the "Brown Bomber," he fell in the 13th round (above).*

*It hasn't been the same, of course, for a long, long time. The legends of the '30s, '40s, and '50s were special because they were different. Maybe it's because they were unaffected. Maybe it's because they were asked so many times to prove they were real fighters. Or maybe it's because they fought yesterday, which almost always seems better than today.*

*When one of them passes, the impulse is to bring them back by making the memories close enough to touch. One way to do that is to talk with those who lived at their sides. Trouble is, there aren't many of them left, either.*

*Browsing through yellowed* Archie Moore and Harold Johnson and Maxie Rosenbloom and Tommy Loughran. He was an extremely skillful boxer, and he had a talent for anticipating what his opponent was going to do. He didn't have the dexterity of a Willie Pep, but nobody did. But for a man who weighed 175 pounds, he was just masterful as a boxer.

My only complaint was that Billy was a bit lazy; he'd fight just beyond the level of his opponent. I remember Billy boxing at the Garden against Henry Cooper—no, not *that* Henry Cooper. It was a pretty dull fight. In



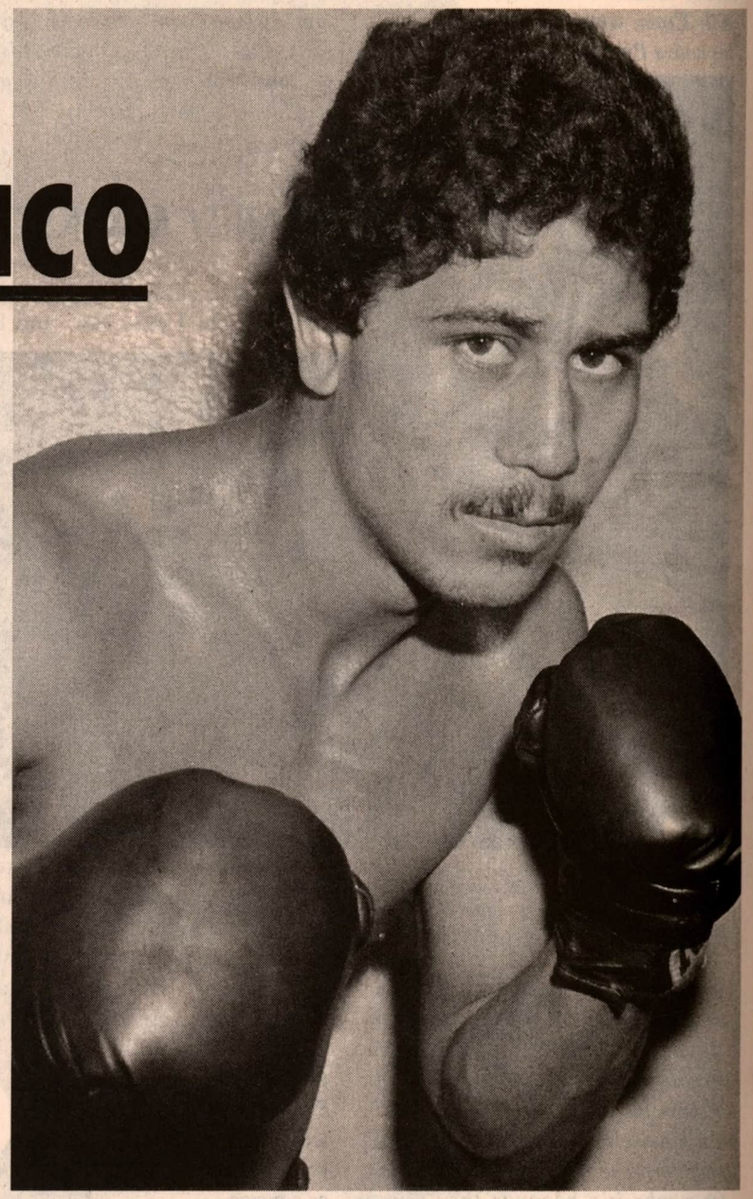
*In June 1990, Conn posed at the International Boxing Hall of Fame with another legendary champion, lightweight king Ike Williams.*

# The Best Of A Nation

## THIS MONTH: PUERTO RICO

1. Wilfredo Gomez
2. Wilfred Benitez
3. Carlos Ortiz
4. Esteban DeJesus
5. Edwin Rosario
6. Pedro Montanez
7. Hector Camacho
8. Sixto Escobar
9. Jose Basora
10. Jose Torres

**By Mario Rivera Martino**



*Wilfredo Gomez was the greatest 122-pounder in the division's brief history. He made 17 successful title defenses, and he also won titles at featherweight and junior lightweight.*

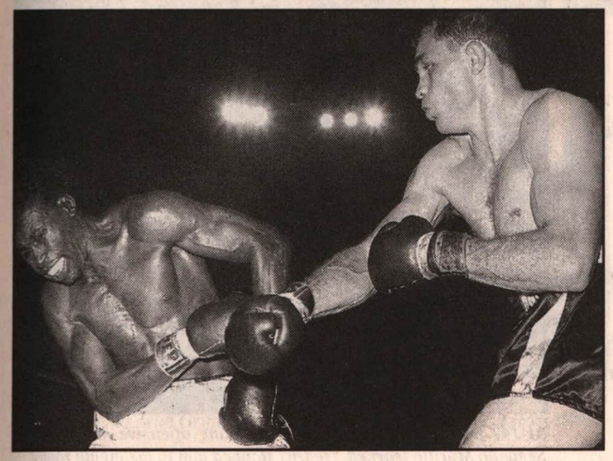
**Wilfredo Gomez** was both an excellent boxer and lethal puncher. He was the most exciting performer in the annals of island boxing. After winning a world amateur title, he turned pro as a bantamweight. Unable to secure a title shot, he won the 122-pound title by knocking out Dong Kyun Yum. He went on to make a division-record 17 defense, including a stunning kayo of Carlos Zarate. Also won titles at featherweight and junior lightweight. An all-time great.

•**Wilfred Benitez** also won three world titles (at junior welterweight, welterweight, and junior middleweight). Among the best defensive fighters in history, he befuddled 140-pound titlist Antonio Cervantes in 1976, winning a decision to become the youngest world champion ever (at age 17). He outpointed Carlos Palomino to win the welter crown, and kayoed Maurice Hope to capture the title at junior middle. Then, at age 24, he began an irreversible slide.

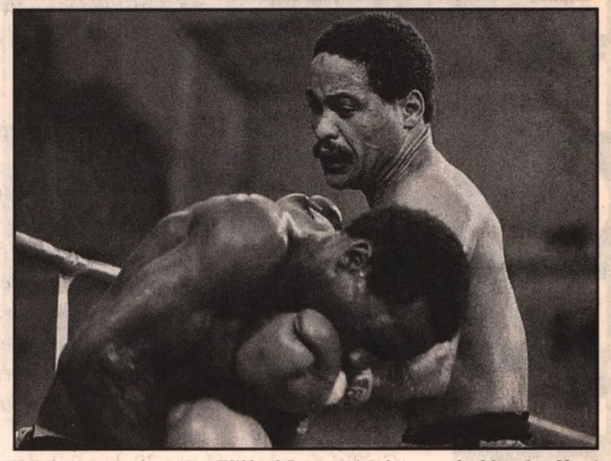
•**Carlos Ortiz** was arguably as great as Gomez and Benitez; he flaunted a combination of the former's power and the latter's defense. A true road warrior, he won world titles at lightweight (over Joe Brown) and junior welterweight (over Kenny Lane). Also defeated Sugar Ramos, Flash Elorde, and Ismael Laguna. When in proper condition, a brilliant fighter.



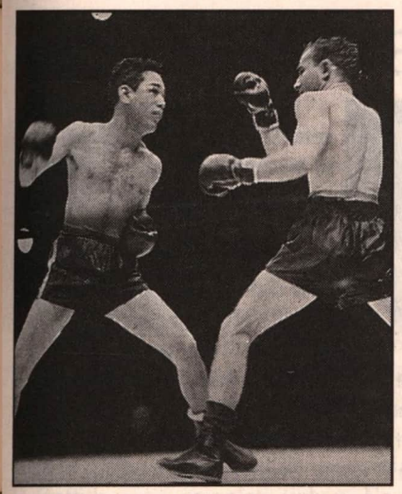
Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, The Ring has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists



*Carlos Ortiz (right), a master boxer with power, takes the lightweight crown from Joe Brown. Ortiz also won the junior welterweight title.*



*Triple-crown champion Wilfred Benitez (right) attacks Maurice Hope to take the junior middleweight title. Benitez' decline began at age 24.*



*Sixto Escobar (left), who was Puerto Rico's first world champion, winds up to wallop Harry Jeffra.*

•**Esteban DeJesus** was an outstanding lightweight champion whose chief claim to fame was a non-title victory over the previously undefeated Roberto Duran in 1972. Subsequently lost twice to Duran in title fights. A short counterpuncher with a dangerous left hook. Defeated Guts Suzuki for the WBC title in 1976 and made three successful defenses.

•**Edwin Rosario** always came back when the odds were against him. "Chapo" recovered from stoppage losses to Jose Luis Ramirez, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Juan Nazario to become a four-time world champion. One of the island's heaviest belters, he won the 135-pound crown three times and the junior welter title once.

•**Pedro Montanez**, along with Sixto Escobar, put Puerto Rico on the fistic map in the '30s. An excellent in-fighter and bodypuncher, he could have been lightweight champion, but Tony Canzoneri never gave him a shot. Had a run of 61 consecutive wins before dropping a 135-pound title try to Lou Ambers in 1937. Was through by age 26.

•**Hector Camacho** has been the island's biggest moneymaker. A southpaw with unusual quickness and reflexes, he is now attempting to get the most out of his declining talent. He defeated Bazooka Limon and Jose Luis Ramirez to win world titles at junior lightweight and lightweight, respectively. Could have been number one on this list, but never took full advantage of his abilities.

•**Sixto Escobar** was the island's first world champion. Although he did not have an outstanding record, he never suffered a knockout loss. Twice held the NBA bantamweight title, and won the world title by stopping Tony Marino in 1936. Defeated, among others, Lou Salica, Harry Jeffra, and K.O. Morgan.

•**Jose Basora** was a 6-foot middleweight who defeated Jake LaMotta, Fritzie Zivic, and Holman Williams, and held the great Sugar Ray Robinson to a draw (in 1945). Was way out of his weight class when he lost to Ezzard Charles in 1942.

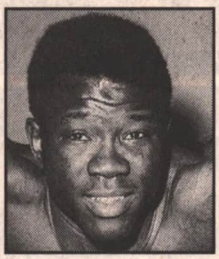
•**Jose Torres** was able to capitalize on having won the light heavyweight title after his fighting days were over. The Cus D'Amato protege won the crown by beating Willie Pastrano in 1965. He defended against Wayne Thornton, Eddie Cotton, and Chic Calderwood before losing to the much smaller Dick Tiger. A conservative fighter with good power in both hands. No Puerto Rican in such a high weight category had ever before been so successful. ■

***Mario Rivera Martino has been a correspondent for The Ring for 45 years.***

# WELTERWEIGHTS

## Emile Griffith

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
Career: 1958-1977
85-24-2 with 23 kayos (one no-contest)



*Among the most accomplished fighters of his era, Griffith was a five-time world champion and a titleholder at both welterweight and middleweight. Beautifully built and superbly conditioned, he combined speed and skills to outbox his opposition.*

*Griffith first won the welterweight title by stopping Benny Paret in 1961. He subsequently twice lost the title, but regained it both times. After rising to middleweight—he usually fought at about 152 pounds—he dethroned Dick Tiger in 1966. He then lost the title to Nino Benvenuti, regained it, and lost it again.*

*Griffith fought until age 39, but failed in attempts to regain both the welter and middleweight crowns. He currently trains fighters, and has worked with, among others, former world champions Bonecrusher Smith and Juan LaPorte.*

## THOMAS HEARNS

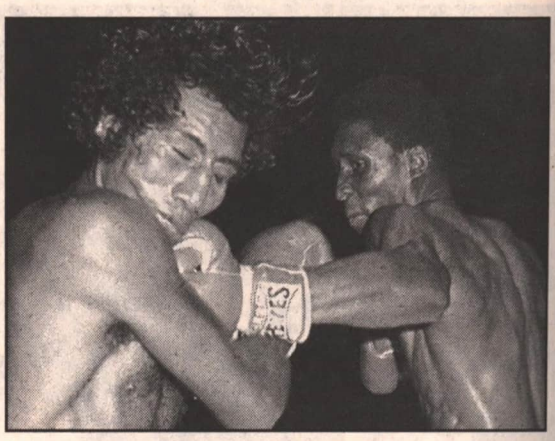
Detroit, Michigan
Career: 1977-Present
50-4-1 with 40 kayos

*The "Hit Man" was arguably the most exciting fighter of the '80s. He was the first boxer to win world titles in four divisions, and unlike most fighters who rise in weight, he managed to carry his numbing power with him.*

*At 6'2", Hearns was most devastating as a welterweight. In 1980, he won the WBA title by crushing the steel-chinned Pipino Cuevas in two rounds. One year later, he was stopped by arch-rival Sugar Ray Leonard in a unification match.*

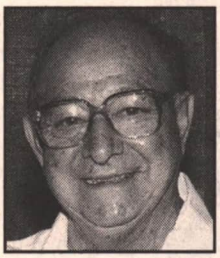
*Hearns went on to win titles at junior middleweight (vs. Wilfred Benitez), light heavyweight (vs. Dennis Andries), middleweight (vs. Juan Roldan), and light heavyweight again (vs. Virgil Hill). In his first try for the 160-pound crown, he was stopped in 1985 by Marvin Hagler. Their slugfest is considered one of the greatest fights of all-time.*

*Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of* THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*



*At 147 pounds, Hearns was a frightening offensive machine, as Segundo Murillo learned. Hearns stopped him in the eighth round.*

# ANGELO DUNDEE

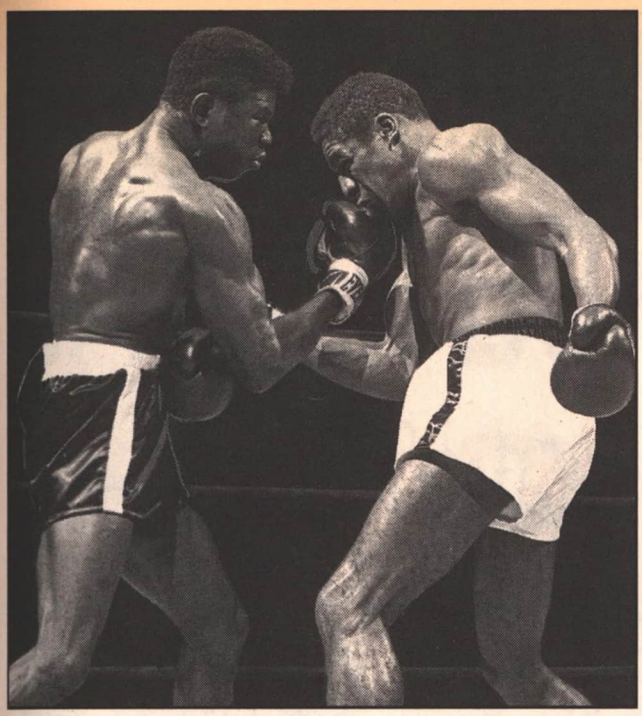


Hearns' tallness was always relevant when you fought him at welterweight; he was lanky, and you couldn't stand in front of him. He was a sudden-death banger, of course, and he threw that right hand right down the pike. He was especially effective when he was sticking his jab, but he didn't always stick. But movement always bothered him. And shots to the body, but you had to be careful; if you punched with a left downstairs, he'd come over the top with his right. Beating Ray Leonard would have given him tremendous credentials, but I'd still rate him with the top welters of all-time.

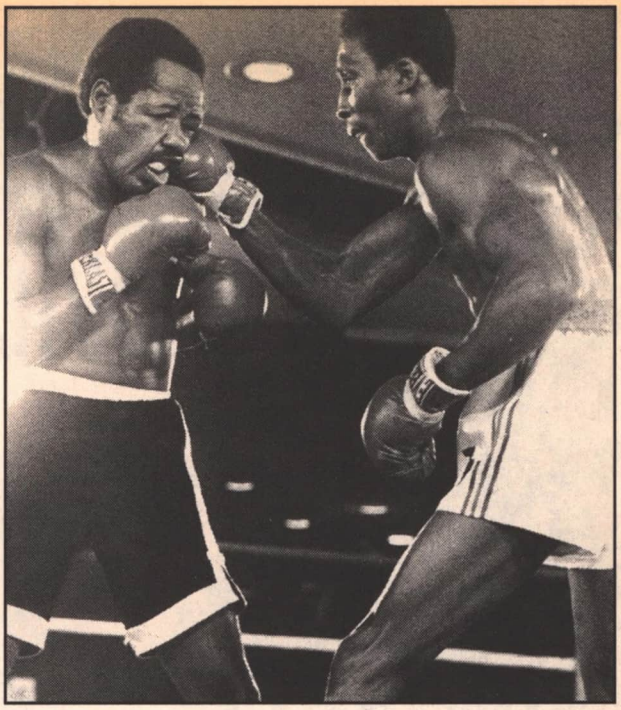
Griffith was a premier boxer. Not a big puncher, but strong, with the shoulders of a heavyweight. He could go 15 rounds without taking a breath. He had to come around the same time as Luis Rodriguez? He offset Luis, but Luis would've kayoed Hearns.

Tommy would come out blasting. Emile would be slick, let him miss, give him misdirection. Tommy would be meeting his master. Griffith by decision, or, if Tommy ran out of gas, late-rounds stoppage.

**Angelo Dundee is a hall of fame trainer . He trained Sugar Ray Leonard, who knocked out Hearns, and Luis Rodriguez, who lost three of four bouts vs. Griffith.**



*Griffith's wars with Luis Rodriguez are part of welterweight lore. The rivals fought four times, with Griffith winning three of them. This shot is from 1960.*



*Hearns distorts the face of Harold Weston, whom he stopped in six rounds in May 1979. The "Hit Man's" right hand rates with the best of all-time.*

# JESSE REID

Hearns was a freak of nature; he was a very tall welterweight, and back then he could have been fighting middleweight. He had great reach and punching power, but his chin wasn't tested until later. I don't think he caught all that well.

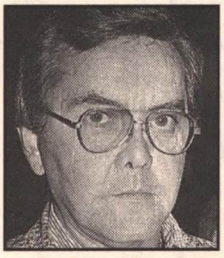
Hearns was a great welter when there were a lot of good welters. I felt he overtrained for the Leonard fight. He fought at 145, and I know he sparred 10 rounds the day before the fight. He just wanted to win so badly. If he fought Leonard at 147 and was handled properly, he would've beaten him.

Griffith was a complete fighter. He was like Chavez—so relaxed, so smooth. He wasn't a big puncher, but he threw beautiful combinations and didn't get hit that much. All he gave you was the top of his head, and remember, Tommy had brittle hands. Griffith also had stamina. At welter, you'd never see him tire in the 13th or 14th round, the way he did at middleweight with Monzon.

I see Griffith absorbing Tommy's punches for the first four or five rounds and then wearing him down with an accumulation of punches. He would've busted Tommy up and stopped him somewhere between the ninth and 13th rounds.

**Jesse Reid handled Bruce Curry for his 1979 kayo loss to Hearns. He currently trains IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales.**

# PAT PUTNAM



Hearns was a big puncher; that's what he did. As an amateur he was a great boxer, but as soon as he started knocking people out, he got away from that. He started to neglect his boxing skills, which was fine against the class of people he was fighting. But Emile Griffith was a bit different. Still, if it weren't for Ray Leonard, we'd be talking about Hearns as an all-time great.

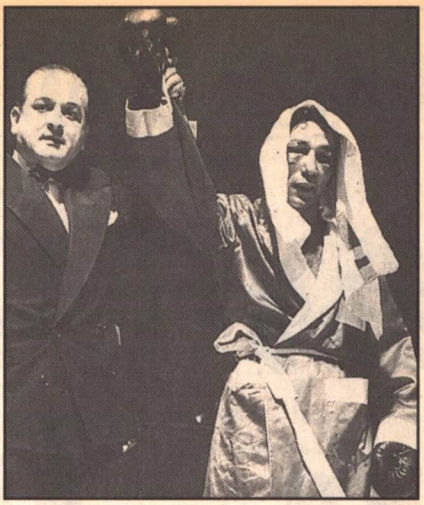
Weight didn't make that much of a difference for Griffith, though I feel he went from being a great welter—I'd rate him in the top 10 of all-time—to a very good middleweight. At 147 he won three of four from Luis Rodriguez, who was a good, good welter, and so was Benny Paret, whom he didn't have problems with. Griffith was a great boxer, a good defensive fighter with a great chin and heart. He had fast hands, and both speed and quickness. He didn't take a lot of people out, but he didn't have to.

I can't see Griffith losing too many rounds. He'd come out a little cautious so he could see what Tommy had. Tommy would go for one big shot. Emile would take away his power and win on points, no problem. ■

**Pat Putnam covers boxing for *Sports Illustrated.***

# MADISON SQUARE GARDEN BOXING

## A Lifetime of Memories



*One of Goodman's first Garden memories: Willie Pep regaining the featherweight title from Sandy Saddler in a 15-round decision in February 1949.*

**By Bob Goodman**

***Four days after Paramount Communications announced its decision to discontinue Madison Square Garden Boxing, there was a press conference hyping one of the Garden's clubshows. Halfway through, Nelson Fernandez, a local manager, verbalized what a lot of insiders and fight fans were thinking.***

***"How could this happen?" he began. "How could there be no boxing at Madison Square Garden?"***

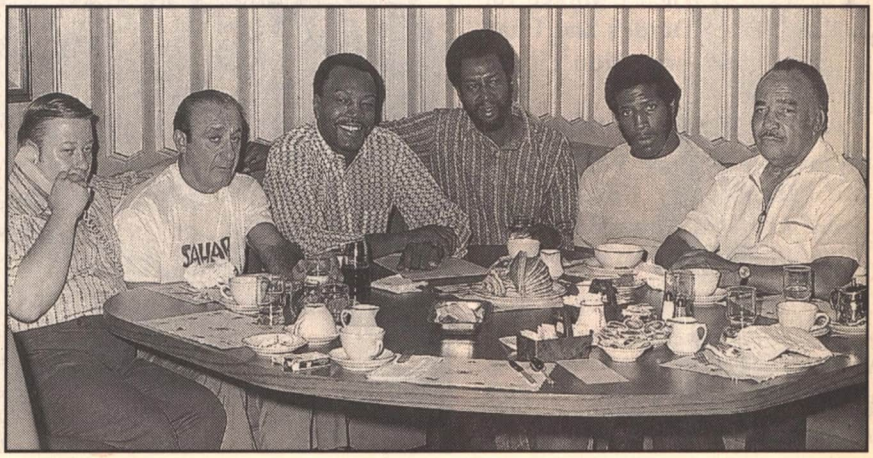
***After Fernandez finished an impassioned speech, Bob Goodman, the boss of MSG Boxing, approached the podium. He was supposed to introduce the main event fighters, but his eyes welled and he just stood there, unable to speak. Perhaps for the first time, he fully understood what Paramount's decision meant. And that it affected him, on both a professional and personal level, more than anyone else.***

***Goodman grew up at the Garden, and has been associated with boxing's most famous building for almost all of his 54 years. In June, he sat down with Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood and told his story.***

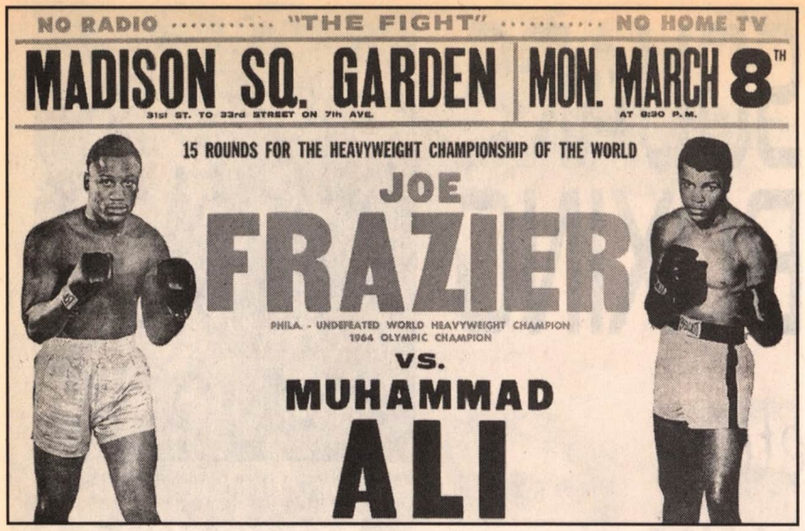
Let me begin by saying that Madison Square Garden is the singlemost important name you can associate with boxing. It means boxing throughout the world, and there not being boxing at the Garden is both a tragedy for the sport and a personal tragedy because I've been associated with it for so long.

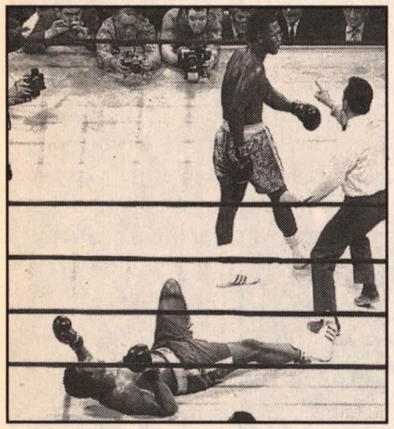
*Bobby Goodman (the blond in the front row) spent his childhood visiting the camps of fighters like middleweight Rocky Graziano. Also pictured: Boxing writer Lester Bromberg (left), and Murray Goodman, Bobby's father (right).*

I plan to continue promoting the Garden's fighters. In some ways, Paramount's decision may turn out to be a blessing. I'll have to answer only to Bobby Goodman, and I'll have a lot of freedom. At the Garden, I had to get a lot of signatures just to get a memo through. Working in a corporate



*A publicist is never far from a phone, even during breakfast. Among Goodman's favorite camps was that of light heavyweight champion Bob Foster.*



*The ultimate night at the Garden was March 8, 1971, when Joe Frazier kept the heavyweight title by flooring and outpointing Muhammad Ali.*

atmosphere was limiting at times, especially in dealing with the people in the trenches. What would it have looked like if a corporate executive, a senior vice president of Madison Square Garden, went up to someone and punched him in the mouth? I've wanted to do that a lot along the way, but I held back. When I worked for Don King, Duke Durden and I had reputations. If we didn't like someone—*boom!*

Mike Trainer put it a funny way when he brought Sugar Ray Leonard here to fight Terry Norris. "It's amazing," he said, "how Bobby can lie down with dogs for so many years and not get fleas."

*The best fight camp in boxing: Ali at Deer Lake. After "The Greatest's" morning roadwork, Goodman hangs out with coordinator Gene Kilroy (hand on chin), conditioner Luis Sarria (arms crossed), and trainer Angelo Dundee.*



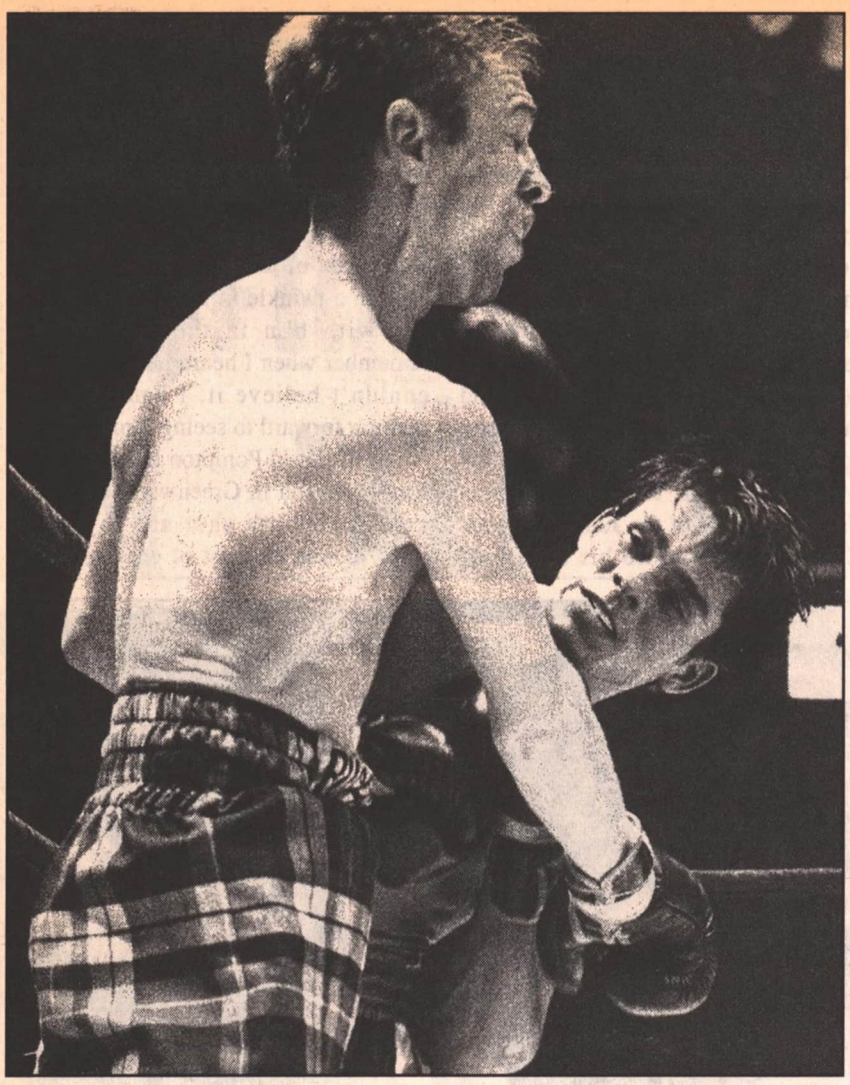


The problem, as it was explained to me, was that while we were making money on the shows, we weren't making enough. The overhead was so high; just to put the key in the door at The Paramount cost more than $30,000. The Washington thing, that boxing's alleged ties to organized crime scared Paramount off, was just an excuse. It was just the economic climate. There's pressure for Paramount to give its stockholders more for their money.

I may still promote at the Garden because it's a wonderful place to have a fight. I know I can make a reasonable deal with Bob Gutkowski, who's the president of the Garden and a great supporter of boxing. I know if it had been his decision, he wouldn't have dropped boxing. I think an outside promoter can still make a profit here. Knowing the building and the players, I can definitely do it. And the bigger pay-per-view becomes, the bigger the Garden can become; New York is still the media capital of the world, and instead of two or three days of press before a big fight, you can get two or three weeks. Remember, in boxing, if you hit a triple or a homer, you can make more in one night than a team can make in a year.

My initial connection to the Garden was my father, Murray, who was the youngest sports editor in the history of the Hearst news wire service. He was 21 when Damon Runyon recommended him for the job. In 1948, my father became a publicist for Jim Norris and the International Boxing Club, which ran boxing at the Garden. My earliest recollection was when I was eight years old. I grew up in the Bronx, and most kids I knew went to camp when school was out. I did, too, but mine was fight camp. The first one was Tami Mauriello at the Jumping Brook Country Club before his title fight with Joe Louis in 1946. Then, in '48, it was Marcel Cerdan, who was training for the Zale fight, at the Evans Hotel in Loch Sheldrake, New York. Cerdan was the guy who really hooked me on boxing. Even though we didn't speak the same language, he had a way of taking me by the hand. He had a twinkle in his eye. I used to run with him in the morning. I remember when I heard he died, I just couldn't believe it. I had been so looking forward to seeing him again.

Joe Louis in Pompton Lakes, Sugar Ray Robinson in Greenwood Lake—I kept my mouth shut and my ears open. It was the best of educations. I



*In the '70s, Panama's Roberto Duran energized the Garden with performances like his title-winning effort against Ken Buchanan. Duran won the lightweight title with a 13th-round TKO over Buchanan.*

remember Rocky Marciano at Grossinger's. We got along real well. He used to like to play catch—he could've been a major league ballplayer—and I'd pitch to him by the pool until his trainer, Charlie Goldman, would come around, wearing that derby of his, and scream at me, "Whatta you doin'? He's a fighter, not a ballplayer!" That was the end of our catch.

When we used to go to camp five or six weeks before a big fight, we'd bring 30, 40 writers with us. And they stayed there the whole time, filing stories every day. I got to know them pretty well. The competition was tremendous, but they helped each other, covered for each other. Today there are fewer papers, but it's more of a cut-throat business.

I always knew I'd be in boxing. It was natural to me because I never remembered anything else. And I loved my father and liked what he did. I remember when he first brought me to the fights at the old Garden, on 49th Street. I remember the hot dog stand where the guys would gather to make their bets. It was never the same with the new Garden, but it was still the Garden.

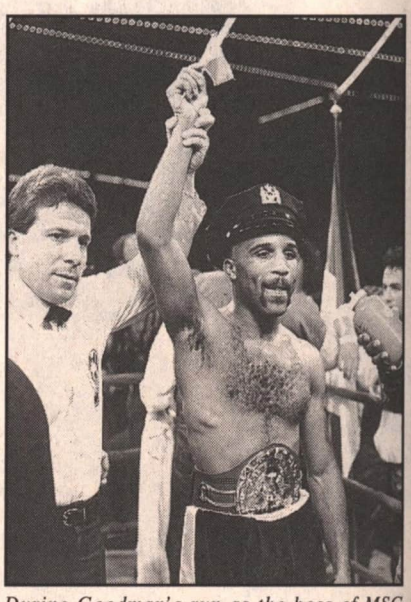
When I was a kid, you had to be 14 to get in, but I'd come early. I remember being at the first two Saddler-Pep fights. I was nine for the first fight. It was magic in that building. Gavilan-Graham in '51, and Gavilan-Paddy Young. Johnny Bratton, Beau Jack ...

I was 13 when I officially worked my first fight. It was Gavilan-Gil Turner, a Garden promotion in Philadelphia. I did errands and ran around, but what I most remember is sitting in the press section, and what a difference that was from the paid seats. At the Louis-Walcott rematch at Yankee Stadium, I had been so far away that I didn't see anything.

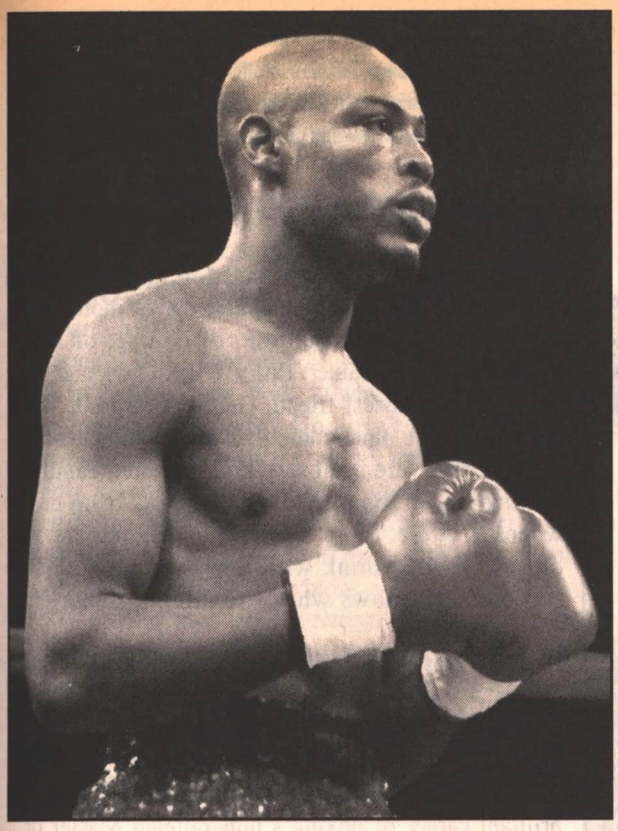
When I became a publicist, I started working fight camps. My first was with Doug Jones in '63, before his Garden fight with Ali. At that point, if somebody had told me that one day I'd be sitting in this seat, I would've said, "No way. The same seat that Mike Jacobs and Harry Markson sat in? Are you kidding? That would be a dream come true."

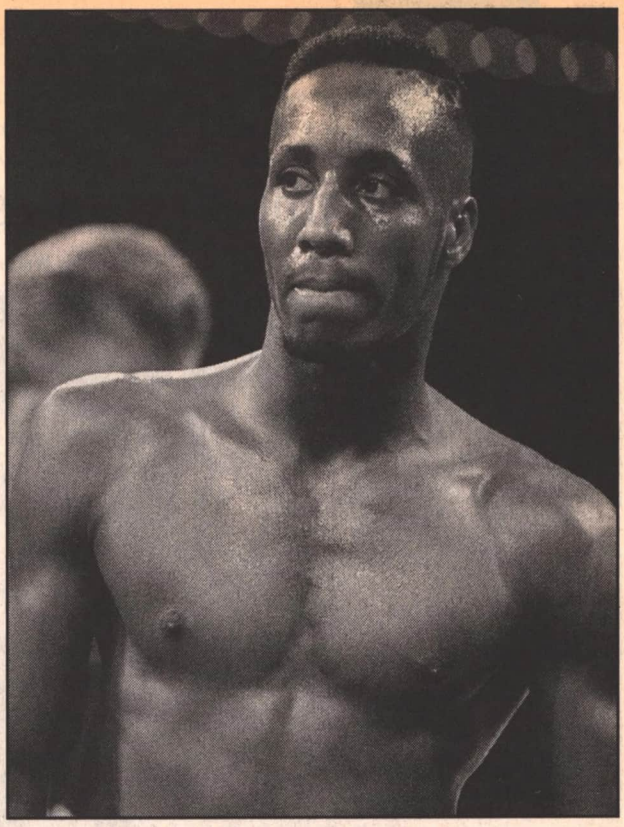
When I first moved to New Jersey, they were still having Friday night fights at the Garden. I remember waking up on Saturdays and never knowing which fighter would be in the bed next to mine. One morning I woke up and Irish Bob Murphy had thrown up all over the place.

I worked a lot of camps for the Garden, and certain fighters stand out. Bob Foster was a tough guy to get to know, even to the point of him snapping at you. But once he was your friend, he was great. One day at the Camelot Country Club in Spring Valley, New York, Red Smith called me and said he was coming up to talk to Bob, who was training for the Frankie DePaula fight. Bob said fine,



*During Goodman's run as the boss of MSG Boxing, he helped develop two-division champion Buddy McGirt, who turned into one of the best.*





*After MSG Boxing closes its doors, Goodman hopes to continue promoting New York-based talent like former welterweight champion Aaron Davis (left) and top-rated bantamweight Junior Jones (right). While Davis is merely a contender at junior middleweight, Jones is close to a title shot.*

but when Red arrived and I set him up in the coffee shop to wait for Foster, the champ didn't want to come down from his room. He was lying down, his boots hanging over the bed, and he said, "Tell him I'll talk to him later. I'm tired." I just kicked him on the bottom of his boots and said, "You'll get up NOW!" He just said, "Okay, okay," and he went and talked to Red.

Bob used to drink beer to keep his weight up, even when he was fighting light heavyweight. We announced him at 188 for his title fight with Joe Frazier, but that was with a 10-pound belt under his trunks.

Buster Mathis was a funny son of a bitch, and I got very close to him. He'd do some weird stuff. He'd go into town and eat three or four

*(Continued on page 60)*

***Goodman would like to eventually bring boxing back to the Garden by working with MSG president Bob Gutkowski.***

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# Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

## REMEMBERING SUGAR RAY

(Circa 1987)

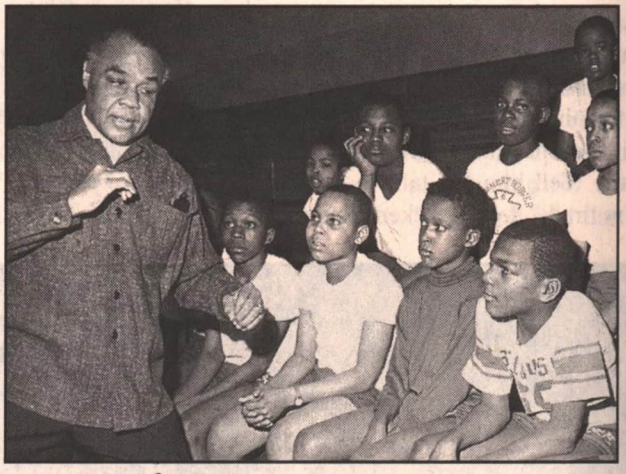
The two men who contributed to the success of Sugar Ray Robinson's remarkable career more than anyone (with the exception, of course, of Ray himself) were his trainer, Harry Wiley (left), and his manager and closest friend, George Gainford. The three men were much more than a smooth operating team. They were a closely knit, devoted family. Boxing writer Jimmy Cannon summed it up best when he wrote, "Ray, George, and Harry are so close that they think with one brain. Each one instinctively knows what's running through the others' minds."

There was never any yelling or disputes in their corner. A nod of the head, a motion of the hand was all that was necessary to convey a message. And it was that smoothness of operation shared by three professionals that was reflected throughout the long, brilliant career of boxing's unparalleled Master of Masters, Sugar Ray Robinson.

## ANOTHER FIRST FOR "HAMMERING HANK"

(February 7, 1969)

The unforgettable Henry Armstrong pumps up his young audience at the Herbert Hoover Boys Club in St. Louis with a demonstration of the buzzsaw style he used 30 years before to become the first man in history to hold three world championships at the same time. When he felt he had captured the youngsters' attention, Armstrong, an ordained minister with his own church and congregation, gracefully switched subjects from boxing to God.



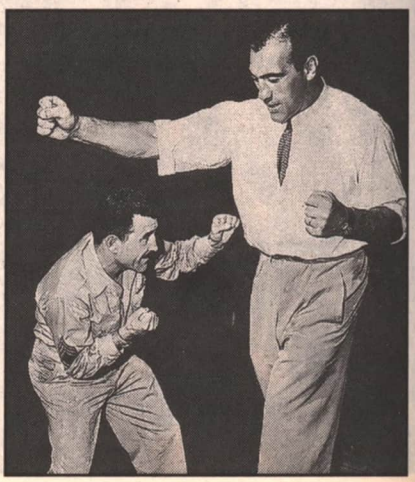
"I will always be grateful to boxing for what it did for me," Henry told a reporter covering the event for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. "But I do confess that I feel uncomfortable using [boxing] when I'm in this kind of situation, trying to steer youngsters away from evil. I do it only to gain their respect."

Armstrong didn't have to spend much time whipping punches at an imaginary foe to win the boys' respect. The mere mention of his name was enough. Henry was the first ex-boxer to work with ghetto kids in the never-ending struggle to keep them out of trouble. Many other former champions tried to follow the course he chartered, the most notable of whom is George Foreman. Like Armstrong, Big George always finds time for kids who need guidance.

## THE LONG AND THE SHORT

(Circa 1943)

Former heavyweight champion Primo Carnera towers over former flyweight king Fidel LaBarba in this official U.S. Army photograph taken in Milan, Italy, during World War II. LaBarba, college-educated and articulate, and with a magnetic personality, was a staff sergeant in special services. His job was to tour military



bases in Europe, arranging sparring exhibitions between professional boxers, and spinning those behind-the-scenes boxing stories that the troops never seemed to get enough of.

Carnera, although not in military service, graciously and enthusiastically accepted every request from the American military forces to make personal appearances. Although his ring career was long over, everybody had heard of the giant former champion, and they all wanted to see him with their own eyes. Needless to say, each and every time Primo was scheduled to punch the bag, skip rope, or spar, the crowd was standing-room-only. We can only guess how many letters from the boys over there to the folks back home began with, "I saw Primo Carnera and, WOW! He really is as big as they said he is ... "

## "NO, ROCKY, *THIS* WAS THE SHOT"

(October 6, 1952)

During a radio interview 27 years after their memorable match in Buffalo, New York, in which rugged Rocky Kansas (left) outpointed Jimmy Goodrich to become the new lightweight champion of the world, the old foes got into a friendly argument over which of them landed the hardest punch of the fight. "It was the right hand under your heart that took the wind out of you in the eighth round," bellowed Goodrich as he simulated the blow.

"The devil it was," Rocky retorted while whipping over a left hook to Jimmy's jaw. "This was the one that would have finished it then and there if it only landed just a little higher. I'll never forget how your eyes rolled when I pulled back my glove."

It is astonishing how vividly boxers can recall exactly what happened at a given moment in fights long ago. It is almost as if each blow left an indelible tattoo. Goodrich lost the title to Kansas on December 7, 1925, by unanimous decision. It was one of the few championship fights in history where the older man won the title; at age 30, Rocky was five years older than the defending champion.

Goodrich was 82 when he died in 1982. Kansas was 59 when he passed on in 1954.

## IRON MEN PAY HOMAGE TO IRON MAN

(June 6, 1933)

Two great former world champions, Gene Tunney (left) and Jack Dempsey (center), together with reigning heavyweight king Jack Sharkey (right), are pictured before entering church in Purchase, New York, to pay their respects at the funeral of the legendary William Muldoon.

Known as "The Iron Man Of Sports," Muldoon shined throughout a career that spanned half-a-century of time. Besides being one of the greatest wrestlers who ever lived, he was also an exceptionally talented boxer. But while still a young man, Muldoon's genius as a trainer and molder of athletes was evident. His long, tumultuous association with the great John L. Sullivan made sizzling headlines for years. Muldoon was the only man who could force John L. to train seriously.

"I told him I'd twist off his head if he didn't get down to business," Muldoon was quoted in *The New York Herald* while Sullivan was supposed to be training for his classic 1889 fight with Jake Kilrain. John L.'s boast, "I fear no man on earth," didn't include Muldoon.

Muldoon later became chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, which he ruled with an iron hand. His unwavering honesty and fierce dedication to law made his long reign of that once-austere body the most respected of all-time. ■

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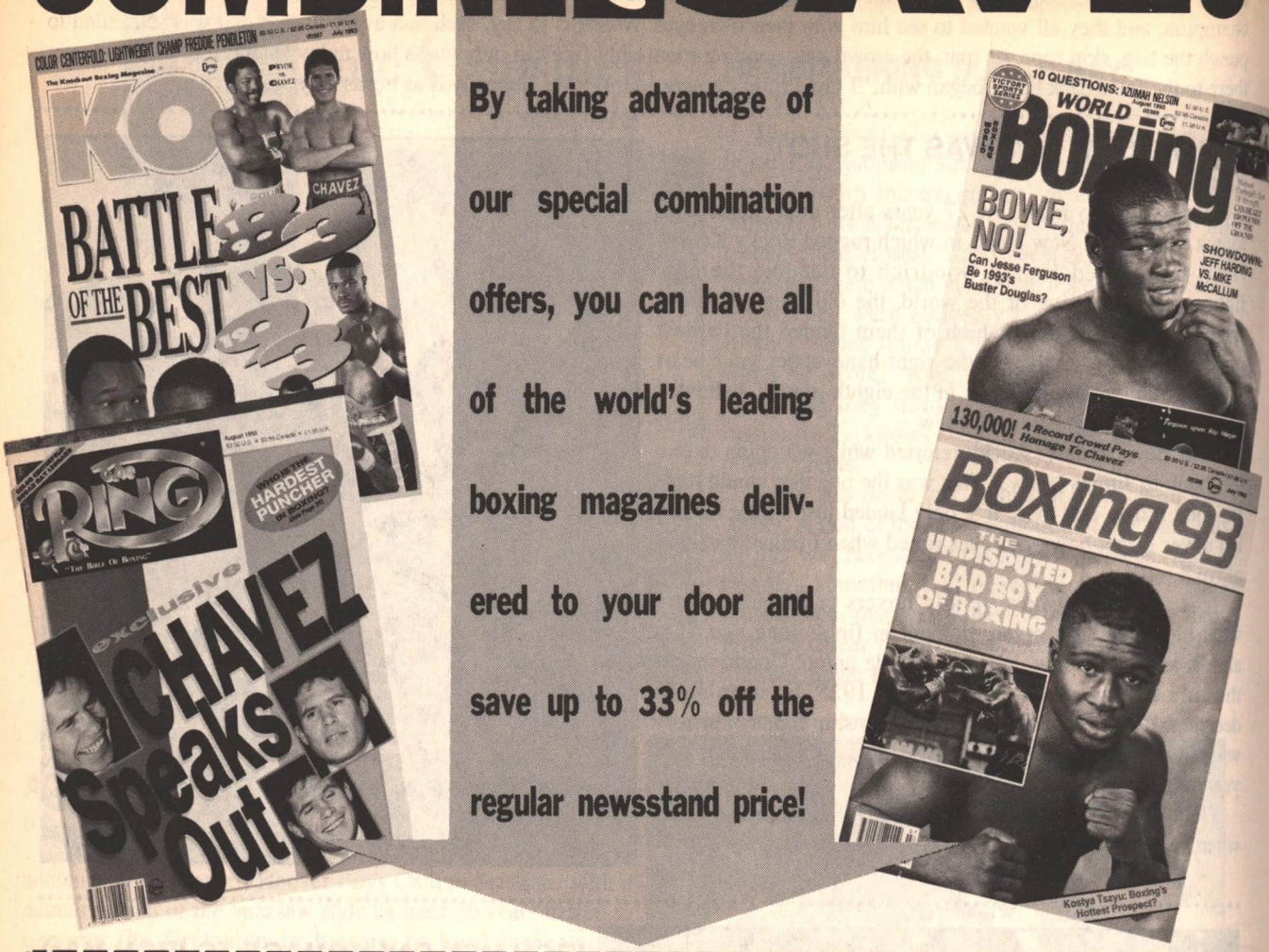


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T O M M Y

# MORRISON

GOOD ENOUGH TO BEAT BIG GEORGE

# But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title?

By Nigel Collins

Tommy Morrison's victory over George Foreman was an uncomfortable awakening for many of his critics. The cynics who had scoffed at "The Duke" and cracked jokes at his expense—*How can he possibly beat Foreman? He couldn't even beat Sylvester Stallone*—were forced to admit, albeit begrudgingly, that they had underestimated him. Now it's time for the Tommy-knockers to swallow their sarcasm, put aside their bias, and reevaluate their opinions.

It's easy to understand why so many people had severe reservations. Not only had Morrison fallen apart against Ray Mercer, but subsequent wins over Joe Hipp and Carl Williams only seemed to underline his shortcomings. The plodding Hipp broke Morrison's jaw before suffering a ninth-round knockout, and the washed-up Williams twice floored the Kansas City contender prior to succumbing in the eighth. If Hipp and Williams gave Morrison so much grief, it followed that Foreman would finish what they had started. Well, forget logic, this is boxing. And

photos by Marc Morrison/Allsport

*The power-punching Morrison changed his style and found success jabbing and moving, meaning Foreman didn't get many chances to punch.*

heavyweight boxing at that.

In most ways, Morrison had a lot more at stake than Foreman when they climbed through the ropes at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. Foreman is a beloved folk hero, his place in boxing history already secure. He's earned millions of dollars, and has lucrative commercial endorsements adding to his stash and a sitcom ready to air in the fall. Morrison, on the other hand, was a fighter in search of redemption, a former toughman contestant trying to prove he was more than just another manufactured White Hope. He badly needed to demonstrate that he belongs among the division's top guns.

A fight often poses as many questions as it answers. But Morrison's unanimous 12-round decision victory seemed to settle certain issues and shed considerable light on others.

***

## WAS FOREMAN A TRUE TEST FOR MORRISON?

It has to be acknowledged that the 44-year-old Foreman is one of boxing's greatest anomalies. At an age when 99.9 percent of all boxers are retired, the fighting preacher is still a force. Is he the same fighter who played yo-yo with Joe Frazier in 1973 or devastated Ken Norton the following year? Of course not. In fact, he's not even the same fighter who extended Evander Holyfield 12 bristling rounds in a failed 1991 title bid. But that doesn't mean he's just a tub of fried chicken.

Nobody who saw the 256-pound Foreman walk through dozens of Morrison's thunderous shots can doubt his toughness. Sure, the old boy's legs wavered a few times, but his fighting heart beat as strongly as ever. And though Foreman experienced considerable difficulty getting off—a common problem when the reflexes deteriorate with age—he still had enough left to shake Morrison with a booming left hook in the final round.

"I was hurt a few times, but I was able to roll with the punches," admitted Morrison.

Even at his advanced age, Foreman is a better fighter than Mercer, Hipp, and Williams. Not only was he a legitimate test for Morrison, but should he decide to keep fighting, he could still beat a lot of the division's young pups.

## WAS THIS THE REAL MORRISON ... OR DID HE JUST CHANGE HIS STYLE FOR ONE FIGHT?

Tommy Morrison jabbing and moving? What's next, Pernell Whitaker leading with his face?

It was strange seeing power-punching Morrison scampering around the ring in reverse gear, flicking out his jab, and stopping only long enough to lash out with a hard counter. Most observers figured he'd march straight in, as he had done against every other

opponent, and attempt to flatten the old codger with his left hook. But that would have been like trying to spike a cannon with your head. Morrison and trainer Tommy Virgets had a better idea.

"The plan was not to let George get set," said Morrison. "That's why we concentrated on working the jab."

"George needs to plant his left foot to get set before punching," said British promoter Mickey Duff. "As soon as he saw George plant, Tommy moved."

Foreman took so long to pull the trigger, Morrison could have run to the concession stand, gobbled down a hot dog, and still found the former champion frozen in the same position when he got back. But what worked against the glacier-like Foreman won't work so well against younger, quicker adversaries. It's extremely doubtful he could get away with the same tactics if Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe, or Michael Moorer were in the opposite corner.

Now that Morrison has discovered he doesn't have to approach every fight like a kamikaze mission, we can expect to see a bit more diversity. But that doesn't mean his knockout percentage is going to nosedive. Few heavyweights have a chin like Foreman, and even if Morrison shows a continued propensity for prudence, his footwork will never be confused with that of Willie Pep and Billy Conn.

Perhaps the most important things Morrison, 37-1 (32), took away from the night was a much-needed confidence boost and the knowledge he doesn't have to go for a knockout in order to win.

## HAS MORRISON SOLVED HIS STAMINA PROBLEM?

When Morrison collapsed against Mercer, co-manager Bill Cayton claimed the problem hadn't been Mercer's punches, but a leak in Morrison's gas tank. He had a valid point. Big hitters often tire when their opponents refuse to fold, and the Morrison camp latched onto the excuse like a drowning man clutching a piece of driftwood.

Judging by his bodybuilder physique, Morrison usually spends adequate time in the gym, and apparently did extra training in preparation for Foreman. But considering that his mouth was hanging open by the end of the third round, conditioning might not be the main problem. The stress involved in a big fight can drain a fighter almost as fast as a breakneck pace. There were times during the Foreman bout when Morrison, a well-chiseled 226 pounds, appeared on the verge of hyperventilating.

"Relax ... calm down," counseled Virgets between rounds.

It was stellar advice. The ability to relax in the ring, a quality that comes with experience, is vital to a world-class fighter. The Mercer disaster was Morrison's first major fight and he was understandably tense. Now that he's been through a few big bouts, it's easier, though still far from easy, to temper his energy and enthusiasm.

It's unlikely Morrison will ever possess Promethean endurance, but there's no denying he exhibited meaningful improvement against Foreman. He paced himself well and showed a great deal of discipline, sticking to his prefight strategy throughout, even when many in the pro-Foreman crowd of 12,743 booed his cautious approach. Had Morrison played to the fans, Cayton might again be moaning about his fighter having pooped out.

*Foreman lost a point for this low blow, but when he did connect legally, Morrison hung tough.*

## SHOULD WE TAKE MORRISON SERIOUSLY?

Any fighter who can stand up to Foreman for 12 pressure-packed rounds has to be taken seriously. He can now claim responsibility for one of the four losses on Foreman's remarkable 72-4 (67) record. How many other current contenders, outside of Holyfield, can say the same? How many other contenders would have risked a fight with Foreman in the first place? And though Morrison beat a decaying version of Big George, it still has to be considered an impressive accomplishment.

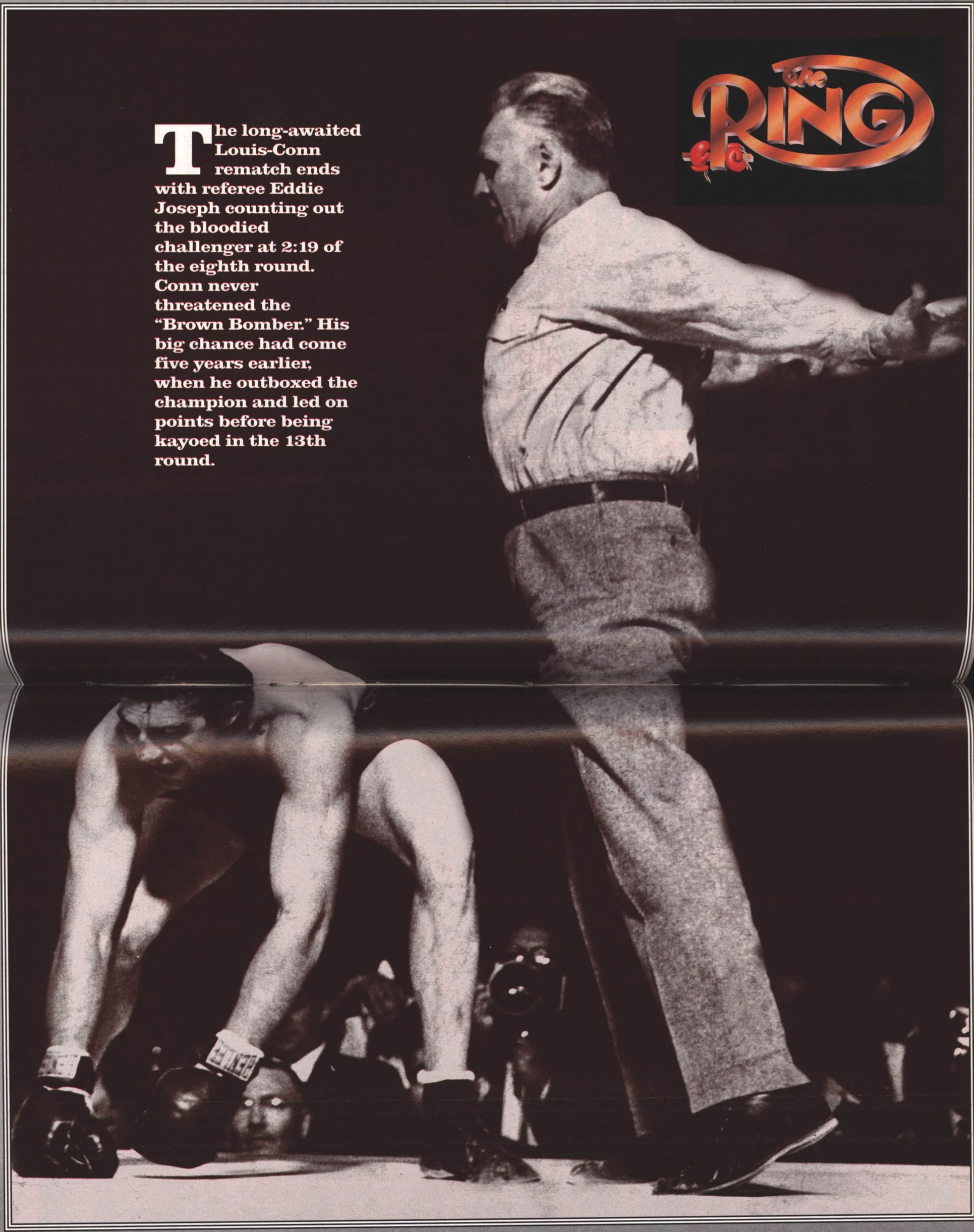
"Tommy Morrison beat a legend," said Virgets. "That means he becomes part of that legend."

Then there's Morrison's punch. Just because he couldn't topple Foreman, don't think he's lost his numbing power. Morrison can still bang with the best in the division.

Improved stamina. Savvy strategy.

***(Continued on page 56)***

The long-awaited Louis-Conn rematch ends with referee Eddie Joseph counting out the bloodied challenger at 2:19 of the eighth round. Conn never threatened the "Brown Bomber." His big chance had come five years earlier, when he outboxed the champion and led on points before being kayoed in the 13th round.




# JOE LOUIS KO 8 BILLY CONN

***June 19, 1946***

***Yankee Stadium, The Bronx, New York***

# IF RIDDICK BOWE IS TARNISHING THE HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE ... Then So Did Dempsey And Louis And Marciano And Ali

By Robert Cassidy

Riddick Bowe has a fond appreciation of boxing history and a desire to place himself alongside the warriors who have preceded him as the world's heavyweight champion. To help achieve such an end, Bowe scheduled his first defense of the IBF-WBA heavyweight titles at Madison Square Garden, where images of Tyson, Ali, Frazier, Marciano, Louis, and Dempsey still shadowbox in the rafters.

Before making his pilgrimage to the one-time mecca of boxing, Bowe told Garden matchmaker Bobby Goodman that he wanted his fight poster to resemble "one of those old-time posters," like the one from the first Ali-Frazier fight that hung in Goodman's office. You remember: the red and black lettering on the yellow background. This 26-year-old champion values tradition, and boxing traditionalists value that.

Now, seven months into his reign, Bowe is following another heavyweight tradition. He is taking the easy road. He is maximizing his profits and minimizing his risks. While the public clamors for a showdown with WBC champion Lennox Lewis, Bowe is fattening his bank account by feasting on heavyweight has-beens and never-weres.

"In the giant scheme of things, I can't find too much fault with what he is doing," said Goodman, who co-promoted Bowe's title defense against Michael Dokes at the Garden. "Look at Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali, there were a lot of lesser opponents mixed in there. The big fights will be there for Bowe."

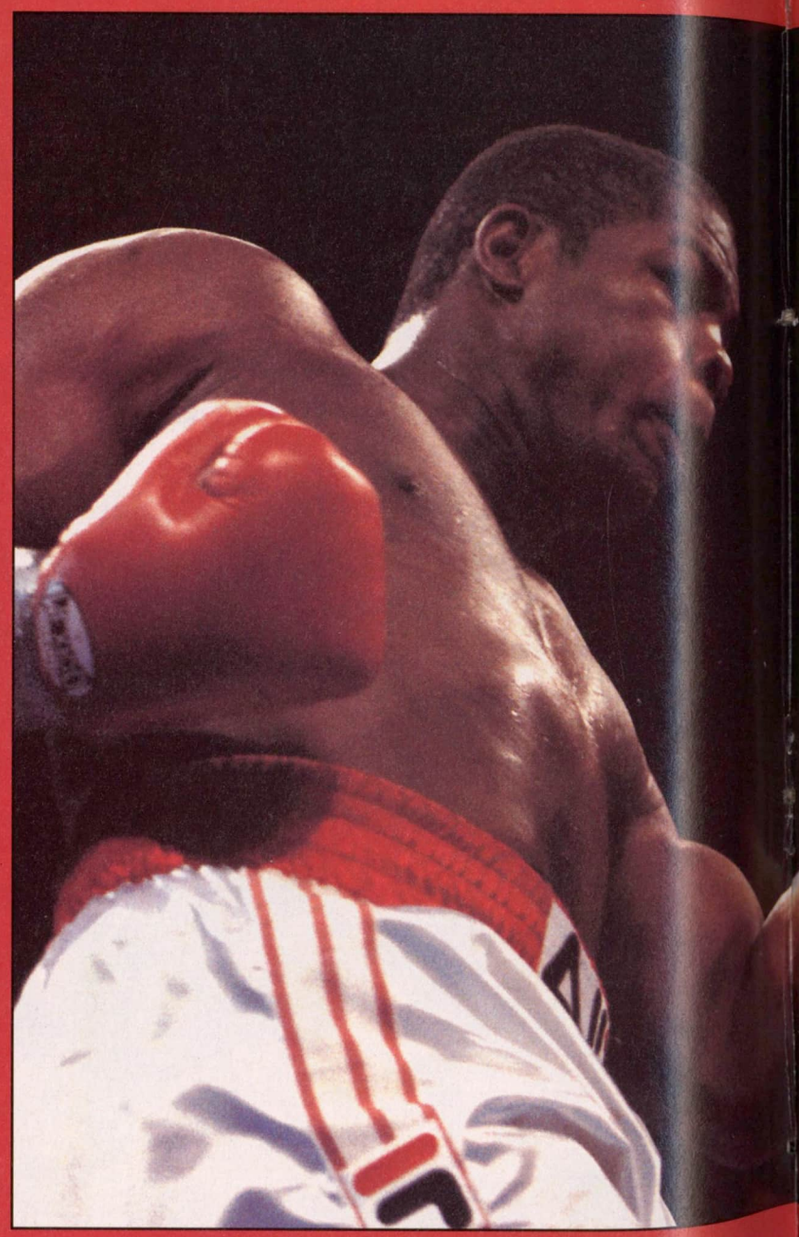
Perhaps the disenchantment would not be as severe had Bowe not already broken a contract to meet Lewis. And perhaps the champion and manager Rock Newman would not be criticized as sharply had they not badgered then-champion Evander Holyfield for desecrating the integrity of the greatest title in sports by defending against 40-plus contenders George Foreman and Larry Holmes, as well as Bert Cooper, a fringe contender with a drug habit.

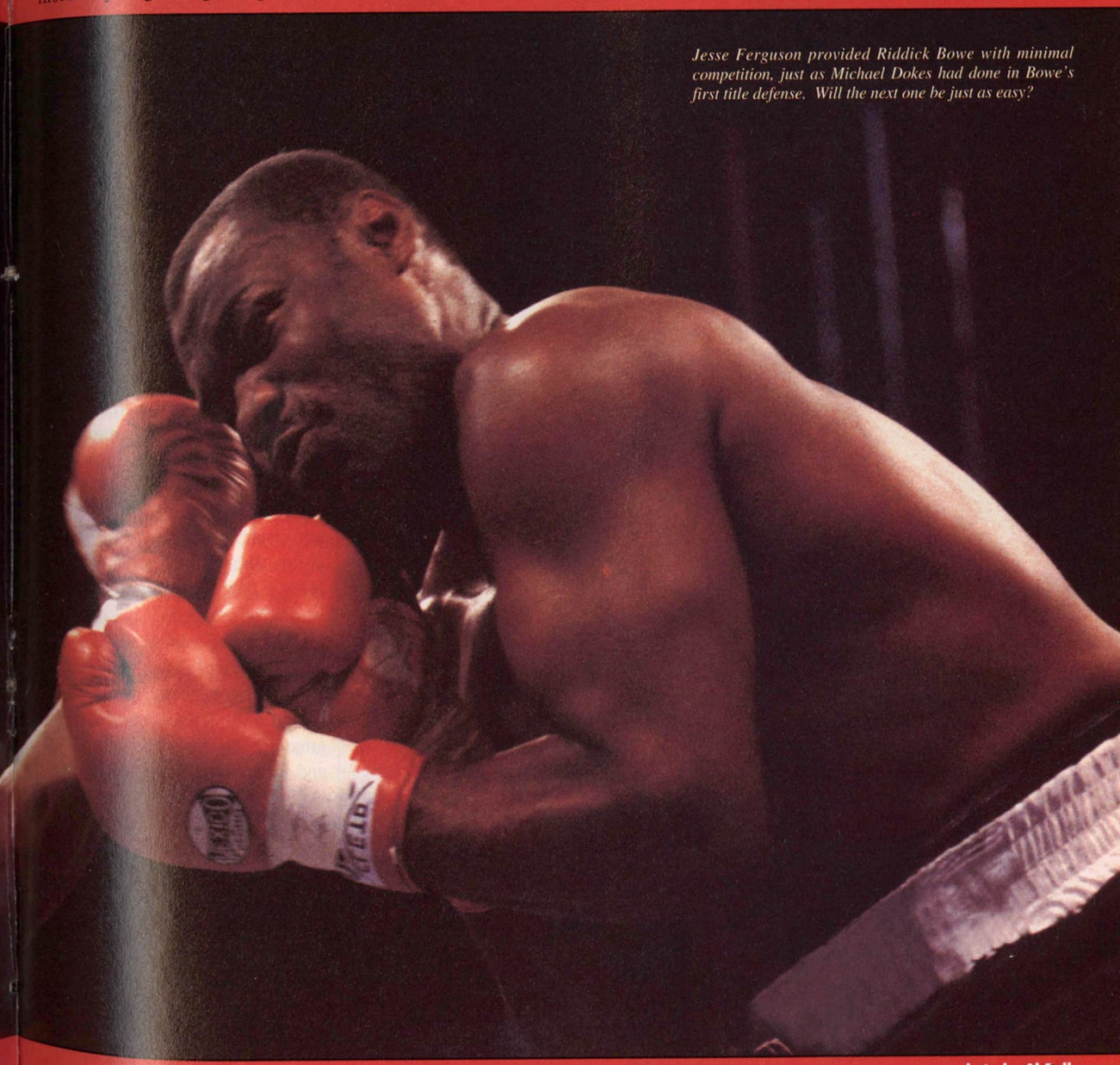
But as it turned out, Bowe has outdone his predecessor. His first two defenses have lasted a combined 5 minutes 36 seconds. In that time he has disposed of Dokes, a 34-year-old former champion with a recurring drug problem, and Jesse Ferguson, a 36-year-old clubfighter who has worked as a sparring partner for some of the world's top heavyweights.

The criticism, however, should go no further. Boxing history reveals that Holyfield was not the first heavyweight king to exploit the title for easy money, and Bowe will likely not be the last. Consider these champions:

•Joe Frazier was recognized as the undisputed heavyweight champion after beating Muhammad Ali in March 1971. He fought twice in 1972, knocking out under-

*(continued on page 52)*





*Jesse Ferguson provided Riddick Bowe with minimal competition, just as Michael Dokes had done in Bowe's first title defense. Will the next one be just as easy?*

photo by Al Bello

# The Man Who Taught LaMotta How To Fight

# mike CAPRIANO

## BOXING'S OLDEST ACTIVE TRAINER

By Mike Silver

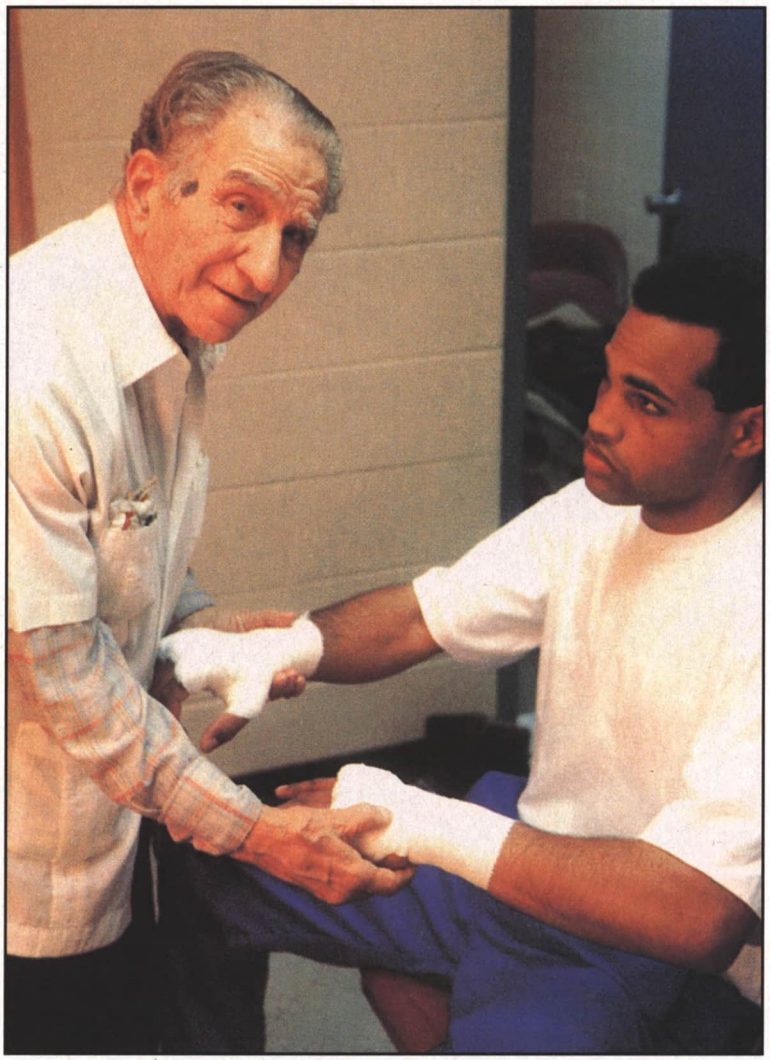
It is the not-so-secret dream of all trainers that someday an ambitious young man will walk into their gym, introduce himself, and announce that he wants to be a fighter. What will make this particular fighter different from all others is that he will have the seeds of greatness within him.

On one gray December afternoon in 1938, a 17-year-old youth, fresh out of reform school, walked into the Bronx' Teasdale Athletic Club in New York for the very first time. The kid was introduced to Mike Capriano, the head boxing coach, and said he wanted to be a fighter. He stood 5'8", weighed 195 pounds, and was built like a brick wall.

The kid's name was Jake LaMotta.

Mike Capriano's dream was about to come true.

In an era when anyone can throw a towel around his neck and not only claim to be a trainer but be accepted as such, 84-year-old Mike Capriano is an anachronism.

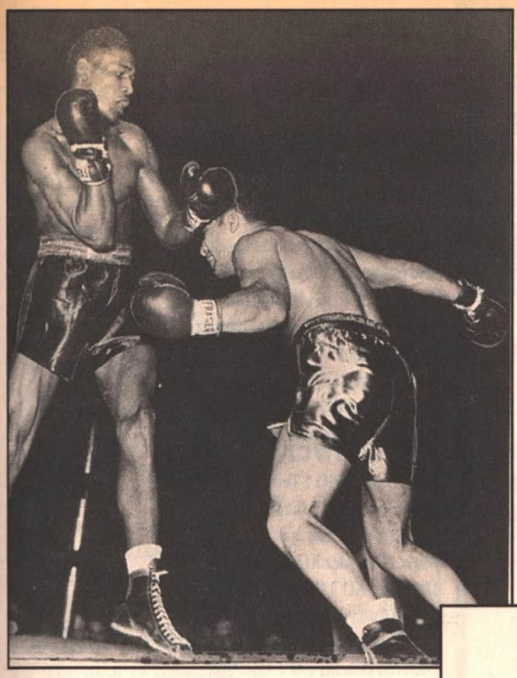


*Mike Capriano, age 84, prepares light heavyweight David Telesco for battle in New York City.*

Along with contemporaries Ray Arcel and Eddie Futch, he is one of the last of the great trainers to have earned his diploma in the Sweet Science during boxing's golden age of the 1920s and '30s. The apprenticeship these men experienced was unique to its time and is just not possible today. The opportunities to learn, observe, and teach were abundant to the extreme. Every major metropolitan area was a beehive of fistic activity. The cornucopia of fight clubs that dotted the New York City landscape was Mike's campus.

He started out as a 112-pound flyweight in 1922. Over the next several years he fought and bled in countless amateur, bootleg, semi-pro, and professional contests. He befriended and trained with local hero and Bronx neighbor Frankie Genaro. Genaro had won the Olympic flyweight title in 1920, and was well on his way to winning a professional title. He is remembered today as one of the greatest flyweight champions of all-time.

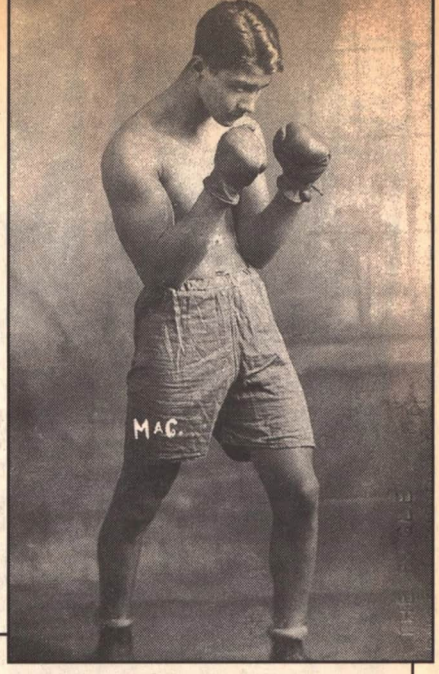
"Frankie lived nearby on Kingsbridge Road," recalls Capriano. "I started doing roadwork with him around the Bronx reservoir. He gave me a lot of good points,



*LaMotta's one victory over Ray Robinson came in February 1943, when the New Yorker floored Sugar Ray en route to scoring a 10-round decision victory (left).*

*In the '20s, a teenaged Capriano fought as a flyweight (right).*

*LaMotta and Capriano during the "Bronx Bull's" run at the top of the middleweight division (bottom).*




In his early-20s, Capriano became anemic and was told by doctors to lay off fighting until he recovered. It was during this period that he began to train amateurs at the Teasdale Athletic Club. His

*(Continued on page 54)*

but the main thing he said was 'never be out of shape,' and that's my method—never, never be out of shape.

"I used to go down to Stillman's gym every day to train. I'd see how the tall guys became boxers and the strong guys became weavers."

One of those weavers was Dave Shade, the immensely talented West Coast middleweight who was living in the Bronx while campaigning in the East. Shade was to have a profound influence on Capriano. He was a master of the bend-and-weave school of fighting that has virtually disappeared from the current scene. The style made him almost impossible to hit. It confounded many of his opponents, including 10-1 favorite Jimmy Slattery. Capriano remembers seeing Shade knock out Slattery in a big upset on the undercard to the Mickey Walker-Harry Greb title fight in 1925.

The few fighters who were able to master the bend-and-weave technique were adept at slipping punches and then moving inside their opponent's guard to pound away at both midsection and jaw. The close-quarter fighting required the necessary strength to stay inside, push the opponent back, and keep him on the defensive. Capriano incorporated these moves into his own repertoire, and years later, as a trainer, would attempt to teach them to his students.

# Summary

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

Riddick Bowe KO 2 Jesse Ferguson
*(Retains WBA/IBF Titles)*
Tommy Morrison W 12 George Foreman
Mike Dixon KO 2 Alex Garcia
Larry Holmes KO 6 Paul Poirier
Herbie Hide KO 4 Wimpy Halstead
Henry Akinwande W 12 Axel Schulz
Jorge Luis Gonzalez KO 1 Dwayne Hall
Glenn McCrory W 10 Mark Young
Bonecrusher Smith KO 2 Donnell Wingfield
Greg Page KO 7 Mike Faulkner
Bobby Crabtree KO 7 Ken Bentley
Curtis Shepard KO 3 Alonzo Cutchins
Maurice Chanet KO 8 Dominique Delord
Tex Cobb W 6 Butch Wilkinson
Carlos DeLeon W 6 Joey Christjohn
Shannon Briggs KO 1 Bruce Johnson
Larry Donald W 6 Dan Dacuta
Larry Donald KO 4 William Hinton

## CRUISERWEIGHTS

Anaclet Wamba KO 4 Carlton West
*(Non-Title Fight)*
Arthur Williams W 10 Jeff Lampkin
Johnny Nelson KO 11 Dave Russell
Doug Kornelson W 10 Dave Fiddler
Ralf Rocchigiani D 8 Tony Booth
Bobby Joe Arthur W Disq. 4 Lenny LaPaglia

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Egerton Marcus KO 8 Andrew Maynard
Eric Nicoletta KO 4 Juan Alberto Barrera
Adolpho Washington W 10 Vaughn Hooks
Ernest Mateen W 10 Drake Thadzi
Ramzi Hassan D 12 Jimmy Joseph
Eddy Smulders KO 9 Yawe Davis
Mike Peak KO 1 Bobby Turner

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

James Toney W 10 Glenn Thomas
*(Non-Title Bout)*
Chris Eubank D 12 Ray Close
Tim Littles KO 1 Armando Rodriguez
Henry Wharton KO 3 Ray Domenge
Darrell Flint W 10 Matthew Hilton
Danny Perez KO 1 Chuck Peralta

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Roy Jones W 12 Bernard Hopkins
*(Wins Vacant IBF Title)*
Chris Pyatt W 12 Sumbu Kalambay
Sumbu Kalambay KO 1 Eddie Evans
Frederic Seillier KO 9 Tyrone Trice
Thomas Tate KO 1 Eddie Hall
Joe Lipsey KO 4 Randy Williams
Derrick Rolon KO 2 Mike Jefferson
Scotty Smith KO 1 Jerry Thomas

## JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Aaron Davis KO 6 Jose Martinez
Vernon Phillips KO 5 Rafael Williams
Wayne Powell KO 2 Matthew Charleston
Vincent Pettway KO 11 Dan Sherry
Hitoshi Kamiyama KO 7 Masumi Yamaguchi
Winky Wright KO 1 James Stokes
Andy Till KO 4 Wally Swift
Emmett Linton KO 5 James Mason
Eric Holland W 10 Scotty Smith
Darrell Flint W 10 Matthew Hilton
Curtis Summit W 12 Gustavo Ibanez
Kenny Lopez W 12 John Armijo
Bruce Starling KO 1 Kevin Moley
Gene Hatcher KO 1 Randolf Wesson

## WELTERWEIGHTS

Felix Trinidad KO 1 Terry Acker
Larry Barnes W 12 Harold Brazier
Oba Carr W 10 Eric Valdez
Miguel Gonzalez KO 8 Genaro Leon
Del Bryan KO 2 Oscar Checa
Derrell Coley D 10 Lonnie Smith
Buck Smith KO 1 George Jackson
Donovan Boucher KO 2 Ariel Cruz
Gary Jacobs KO 4 Horace Fleary
Lester Ellis KO 5 Sergei Adamov
Anthony Stephens KO 2 Homero Gonzalez
Jesus Cardenas KO 11 Engels Pedroza
Roland Rangel W 10 Griffin Coleman
Antoine Fernandez KO 4 Csaba Olah
Harold Brazier W 8 Reggie Strickland

## JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Charles Murray W 12 Rodney Moore
*(Wins Vacant IBF Title)*
Zack Padilla W 12 Carlos Gonzalez
Kostya Tszyu KO 1 Larry LaCoursiere
Carl Griffith KO 7 Roland Commings
Frankie Randall KO 4 Sergio Zambrano
Andy Holligan KO 2 Lorenzo Garcia
Harold Warren KO 6 Tim Brooks
John Duplessis W 10 Hector Ramirez
Sean Malone KO 6 Pat Ireland
Pedro Saiz D 10 Lyndon Walker
Jan Bergman W 12 Aaron Kabi
Gregorio Balcazar KO 6 Bazooka Limon
Pepe Reilly KO 2 Margarito Gonzalez

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

Freddie Pendleton KO 2 Cruz Saldana
*(Non-Title Fight)*
Sharmba Mitchell KO 1 Kenny Baysmore
Jean-Baptiste Mendy KO 8 Carl Crook
Jorge Paez W 10 Jesse Torres
Wilfrido Rocha KO 2 Felix Jose Rodriguez
Chad Broussard KO 2 Aaron Shackleford
Chad Broussard KO 2 Oscar Washington
Rodolfo Gomez KO 1 Ricardo Vasquez
Marty Jakubowski KO 6 Jeff Whaley
Marty Jakubowski KO 4 Tim Bennett
Otilio Villareal W 10 Fred Valera

## JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

John-John Molina KO 3 Tony Duran
(Non-Title Bout)
Calvin Grove KO 7 Jeff Fenech
Oscar De La Hoya KO 1 Troy Dorsey
Manuel Medina KO 8 Panchito Valdez
Eugene Speed W 10 Bobby Brewer

Yuji Watanabe KO 2 Trican Panas
Jackie Gunguluza W 10 Angel Hernandez
Johnny Vasquez KO 6 Leo Mancillas
Cesar Polanco KO 7 Angel Vargas
Kamel Bou-Ali KO 1 Tony Rutledge
Jesus Rodriguez W 12 Javier Pichardo
Freddie Liberatore W 10 Joseph Figueroa
Tommy Parks KO 4 Lamont Buchanan
Gabriel Castro W 10 Ben Lopez

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

Kevin Kelley KO 6 Jesus Poll
Maurizio Stecca KO 10 Herve Jacob
Billy Hardy W 12 Barrington Francis
Seiji Asakawa KO 4 Bernard Mula
Hector Lizarraga KO 8 Abe Gomez
Fabrice Benichou KO 2 Roy Muniz
Chris Saguid W 10 Chong Pil Park
Stephane Haccoun KO 1 Wilson Lee Dikes
Jose Badilla KO 9 Daryl Pinckney
Nana Konadu KO 1 Luis Cruz
Miguel Arrozal KO 1 Amado Alvarado
Cedric Mingo W 10 Raul Martinez Mora

## JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jesse Benavides KO 6 Runnell Doll
Julio Gervacio W 10 Ulises Chong
Daniel Jimenez W 12 Duke McKenzie
Cesar Soto KO 3 Luis Ruiz Lizarraga
Freddy Cruz W 10 Rocky Valencia
Maui Diaz W 10 Vicente Gonzalez
Pepillo Valdez W 12 Otilio Gallegos
Sergio Reyes W 4 Oscar Lopez

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

Jung Il Byun W 12 Josefino Suarez
(Retains WBC Title)
Vincenzo Belcastro W 12 John Micelli
Happy Lora W 10 Cesar Polanco
Derrick Whiteboy W Disq. 11 Victor Sonaba
Daorung Chuvatana KO 5 Agus Ekalaya

## JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Kotaro Hayashi
*(Retains WBA Title)*
Julio Borboa W 12 Joel Luna Zarate
*(Retains IBF Title)*
Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Noe Santillana
Armando Salazar KO 7 Victor Hernandez
Cuauhtemoc Gomez Tech. Dec. 8 Armando Castro
Rolando Pascua KO 7 Rey Paciones
Chatchai Sasakul W 12 Rolando Pascua
Danny Romero KO 2 Silverio Porras

## FLYWEIGHTS

Isaias Zamudio W 10 Edgar Decenas
Jacob Matlala KO 8 Pat Clinton
Mark Johnson W 12 Alberto Jimenez
Alberto Jimenez KO 2 Juan Pablo Salazar
Jesus Rojas KO 9 Puma Toguchi
Antonio Ruiz W 12 Jose Quirino
Arthur Johnson W 8 Arturo Estrada

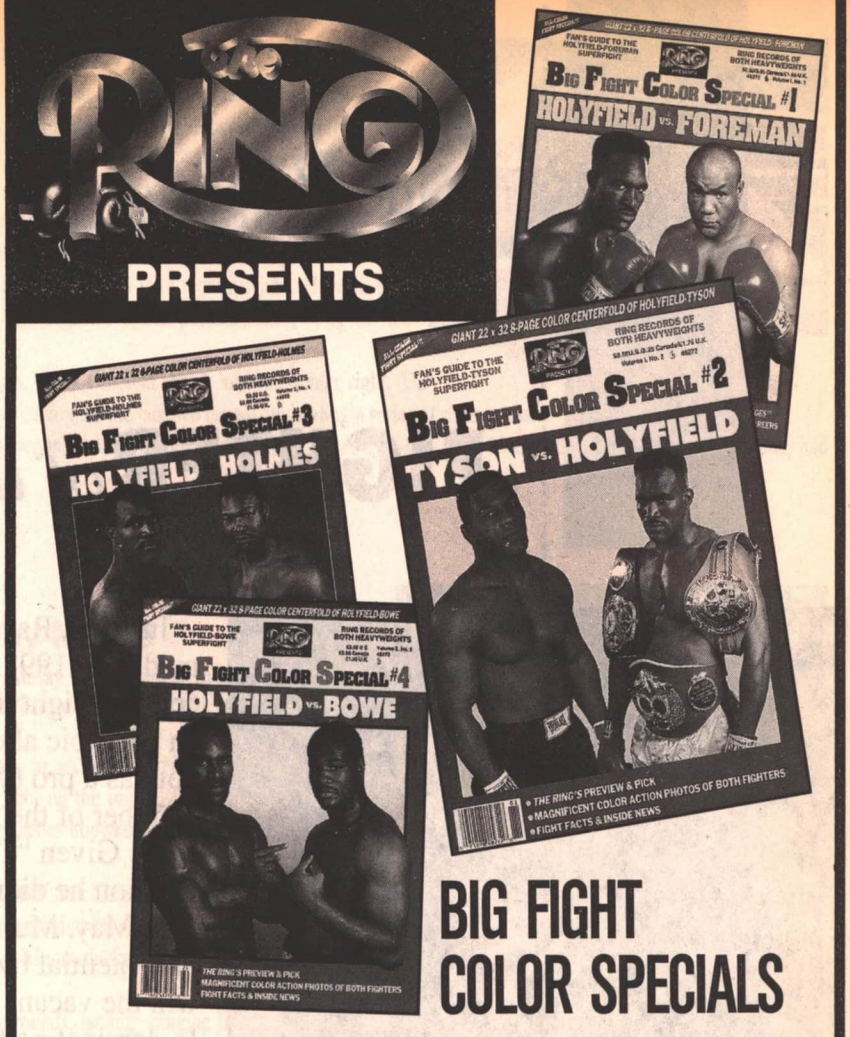
## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Domingo Sosa KO 6 Domingo Guillen

## STRAWWEIGHTS

Chana Porpaoin W 12 Carlos Murillo
*(Retains WBA Title)*
Paul Weir KO 7 Fernando Martinez
Yuichi Hosono KO 3 Jung Yul Bang
Toto Por Ponsawang W 10 Manny Melchor


The RING PRESENTS

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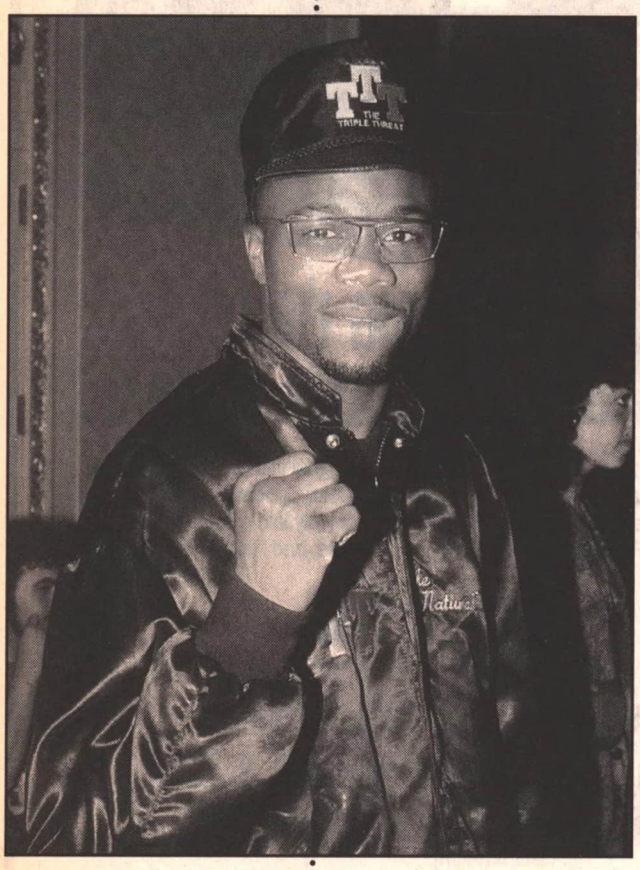
# FIGHTER *of the* MONTH



In 1988, Ray Mercer won an Olympic gold medal. In 1992, Al Cole won the IBF cruiserweight title. That made Charles Murray, an Olympic alternate and a bust in his biggest bout as a pro (vs. Terrence Alli), the third member of the three-man Triple Threat boxing team. Given "The Natural's" talent, it was a position he didn't figure to hold for long.

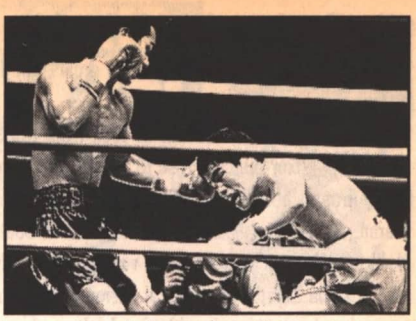
In May, Murray realized at least a portion of his potential by outpointing Rodney Moore to win the vacant IBF junior welterweight title. In dominating the second half of the bout, Murray showed not only speed and skill, but a toughness that was absent in his May 1991 loss to Alli.

With Julio Cesar Chavez preparing to move up to welterweight, the 140-pound division is seeking a new leader. Look for Murray, suddenly the most valuable player of Triple Threat, to become the MVP of boxing's deepest division, too.

• • • •

## Charles Murray

## Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Kotaro Hayashi



*"Spanky" struggled with Hayashi*

Tokyo, Japan—Prohibitive favorite "Spanky" Onizuka struggled to retain the WBA junior bantamweight title, scoring a split 12-round decision over underrated Korean Kotaro Hayashi (real name Jae Shin Lim) before some 11,000 fans at Japan Martial Arts Hall. It was the 23-year-old Onizuka's third, and least impressive, defense.

The stylish 5'8" champion appeared overconfident against the Japanese-based challenger, who was regarded as overmatched. The 5'4" Hayashi took the initiative from the start, firing one-twos and confusing Onizuka. The champion responded in the third and fourth with tentative jabs. Hayashi took control by stunning Onizuka with a right in the fifth. The Japanese fighter punched back, however, and gained an edge in the middle rounds.

The 22-year-old Hayashi's legs sagged in the ninth, when Onizuka struck with a counter right. The champion also carried the 10th, but the gutty Korean rallied to take the last two rounds by landing a series of right hands.

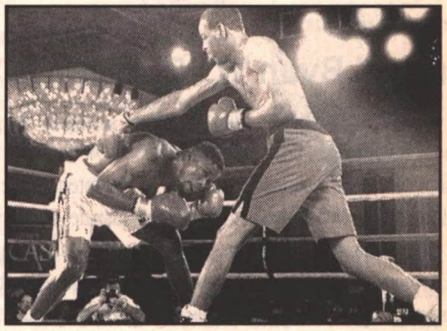
Takeshi Shimakawa (Japan) and Masakazu Uchida (Japan) scored for Onizuka by 117-113 and 116-115, respectively. Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama) had Hayashi ahead by 116-115.

The referee was Kenjiro Makizumi (Japan).

**(5-21-93)**

***Joe Koizumi***

## Charles Murray W 12 Rodney Moore



*Mostly, Murray made Moore miss*

Atlantic City, New Jersey—Triple Threat member Murray finally lived up to expectations, outboxing and outpunching Moore over 12 spirited rounds to win the vacant IBF junior welterweight title at Trump Castle.

The big surprise wasn't that Murray won, but the way he accomplished his mission. Instead of his usual long-range, stick-and-move style, he opted to fight on the inside. This should have been to Moore's liking, but Murray's slick shifts and harder punches allowed him the edge in most of their frequent exchanges.

Moore, 140, Philadelphia, stayed even with Murray, 140, Rochester, New York, until the seventh, when a hard left hook to the body, followed by a whistling right to the head, jolted him into the ropes. Although "The Natural" unleashed a prolonged volley, Moore ducked and dodged until the danger passed, and was fighting back at the bell.

Murray, 29-1 (18), pulled away over the next three rounds, landing stinging jabs, accurate rights, and thumping hooks to the body. Moore, 33-8-2 (16), rallied slightly the last two rounds, but it was not enough to close the gap, and Murray carried all three cards by totals of 115-113 (John Stewart), 116-112 (John Poturaj), and 118-110 (Joe Pasquale).

"The key was a good jab and bodypunches," said Murray. "Moore took a good shot, but I was trying to pace myself."

"Charles has always been a natural, but [new trainer] Tommy Brooks has brought out the extras," said Triple Threat boss Jack Dell.

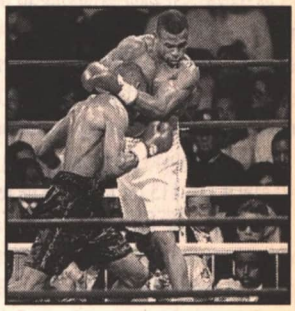
Referee: Frank Cappuccino.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner

**(5-15-93)**

***Nigel Collins***

## Roy Jones W 12 Bernard Hopkins



*Jones kept hold of the situation*

Washington, D.C.—Jones, the heir apparent to the middleweight throne ever since the 1988 Olympics, has finally been crowned. Jones, 159 ½, Pensacola, Florida, scored a unanimous decision over Hopkins, 159, Philadelphia, to win the IBF title that had been vacated by James Toney.

In what many considered the main attraction on the Riddick Bowe-Jesse Ferguson card at RFK Stadium, Jones turned in a less than spectacular performance, and Hopkins couldn't land the bombs that earned him a reputation as one of the division's hardest hitters. Jones, 22-0 (20), relied on effective counters and quick lead rights. All three American judges, Lynne Carter, Al DeVito, and Eugene Grant, scored 116-112.

"This was a long time coming for me," said Jones. "I was very tight coming in, with all the buildup and pressure of my first world title fight."

On only one occasion did Jones dazzle the sparse crowd. He shuffled his feet, wiggled his hips, and caught Hopkins with a left hook while winding up his right hand a la Sugar Ray Leonard. Hopkins, 22-2 (17), pursued earnestly, but couldn't solve his foe's shifty counterpunching style.

"I felt like I built an early lead and I had it under control," said Jones.

"I was a little faster and quicker than he was. He couldn't hurt me inside, so I didn't have much to worry about."

The referee was Steve Smoger.

**(5-22-93)**

***Robert Cassidy***

## Julio Borboa W 12 Joel Luna Zarate

Mexico City, Mexico—A potentially great fight didn't live up to expectations. Borboa, however, may turn out to be better than expected before his reign as IBF junior bantamweight champion is over.

In his first defense of the title he took from Robert Quiroga in January, Borboa, 113 ½, Sonora, Mexico, gave a third consecutive undefeated rival his first loss. The boxer-puncher rose to world-class status with a 1992 win over flyweight contender Al Kotey. He's proven just as successful at 115 pounds, first in Quiroga's hometown of San Antonio, and again at El Toreo de Cuatro Caminos in Zarate's hometown of Mexico City.

Zarate, 21-1 (18), suffered his first loss in 60 bouts as an amateur and pro. Borboa, 19-4 (18), boxed in a tight circle and repeatedly scored with short and quick blows. He won by unanimous verdict, with Pedro Mendoza (Mexico) scoring 117-111, Joe Garcia (USA) 116-112, and Alex Rochin (USA) 115-113.

"I felt Luna Zarate's punches at various times," admitted the 23-year-old champion, who was rocked in the first round by a left hook. "But he couldn't hurt me when I boxed inside with him. I felt good, and all my hard preparation for this fight paid off."

"I felt stiff and nervous," said the challenger, who did not respond to the late-rounds urgings of his uncle, legendary former bantamweight champion Carlos Zarate.

The fight was originally scheduled for early-May, but was postponed when Borboa came down with a sore throat.

Referee: Jesus Arias Torres.

Promoter: Armando Bernal

Attendance: 1,000 (approximate)

**(5-22-93)**

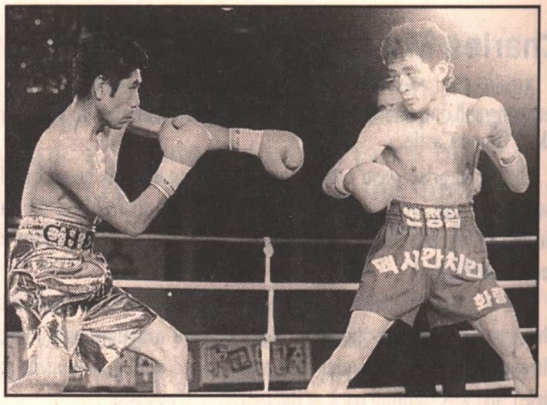
***Bruce Williams***

## Jung Il Byun W 12 Josefino Suarez

Seoul, South Korea—Slick-punching southpaw Byun, 117 ¾, proved too fast and clever for Mexican challenger Suarez, 116 ¾, winning a lopsided 12-round decision to retain the WBC bantamweight title at the Intercontinental Hotel. It was Byun's first defense of the title he won from Victor Rabanales in March.

Byun dropped the nervous challenger with a smashing left in the opening round. The champion began to switch to an orthodox stance in the second, and Suarez seemed confused. Byun landed a high percentage of his punches, while Suarez stood stationary and rarely scored.

Suarez walked in and absorbed punishment for all 12 rounds, but didn't appear to be in trouble until the 10th, 11th, and 12th sessions. Byun, however, lacked the power to finish the job.



*Byun (right) stayed out of Suarez' range*

Gus Mercurio (Australia) scored 120-104, Bruce McTavish (New Zealand) 120-106, and Ken Morita (Japan) 119-109. The referee was Richard Steele.

The 25-year-old Byun, who moonlights as a college student, is 10-0 (4). Suarez, 30, dropped to 16-8-1 (12).

Promoter: Hwarang Promotions

**(5-28-93)**

***Joe Koizumi***

## Zack Padilla W 12 Carlos Gonzalez

Las Vegas, Nevada—Surging to new heights as a spoiler, Padilla, 139, Azusa, California, set a torrid pace and ruined the perfect record of "Bolillo" Gonzalez, 140, Mexico City, Mexico, on the Morrison-Foreman undercard at the Thomas & Mack Center. In less than half a year, Padilla has scored upsets over Ricky Meyers, Roger Mayweather, and Gonzalez.

An incredible 2,421 punches were thrown. The difference: Padilla, a 4-1 underdog, landed almost 50 percent of his blows, while Gonzalez, the far bigger puncher, connected with only 30 percent.

The decision was unanimous, with Dave Parris scoring 117-112, Paul Smith 117-111, and Art Lurie 115-114. (All three judges are from the USA.) THE RING saw it 116-113 for Padilla. The referee was Richard Steele.

"When I came back into boxing, all I wanted to do was fight a couple of fights," said the 30-year-old Padilla, who ballooned to 200 pounds while working a construction job from 1986 to 1990. "I just wanted to be a competent fighter. I didn't know I'd get this far."

The 20-year-old Gonzalez, 36-1 (30), started quickly and won the first two rounds. Padilla took the third, but it wasn't until the fifth that the fighters began firing non-stop. Punching both inside and outside, Padilla controlled the last half of the bout, with judges Smith and Parris giving Gonzalez no rounds after the sixth.

"I was a little wary of Gonzalez' power early, but then it wasn't hurting," said Padilla, 17-1-1 (10). "But hell, feeling these knots on my face means he must have hit me with something.

"I hurt my right hand in the Mayweather fight, and I think I broke it again early. Look how purple it is. But I wasn't worried about the pain."

Gonzalez earned $90,000; Padilla $22,500.

**(6-7-93)**

***Jack Welsh***

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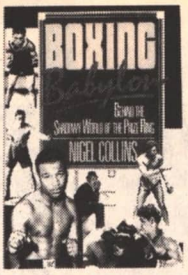


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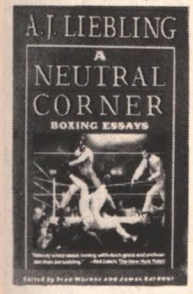


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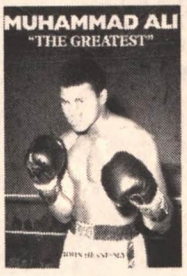


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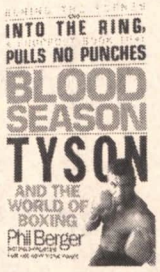


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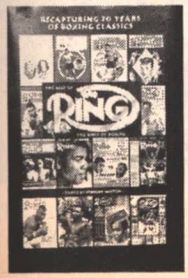


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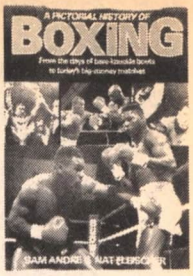


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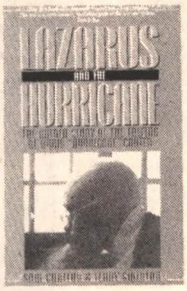


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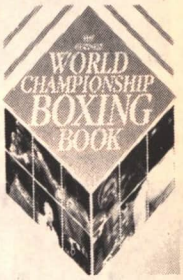


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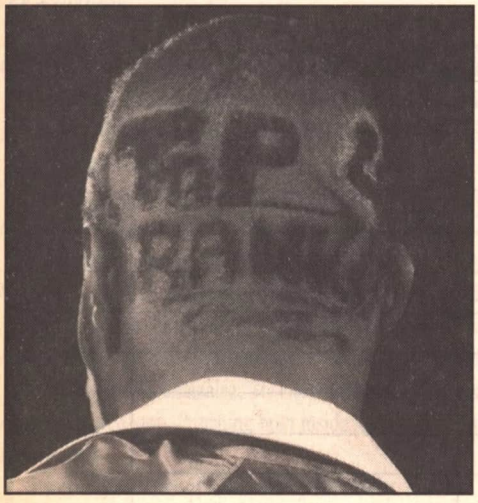
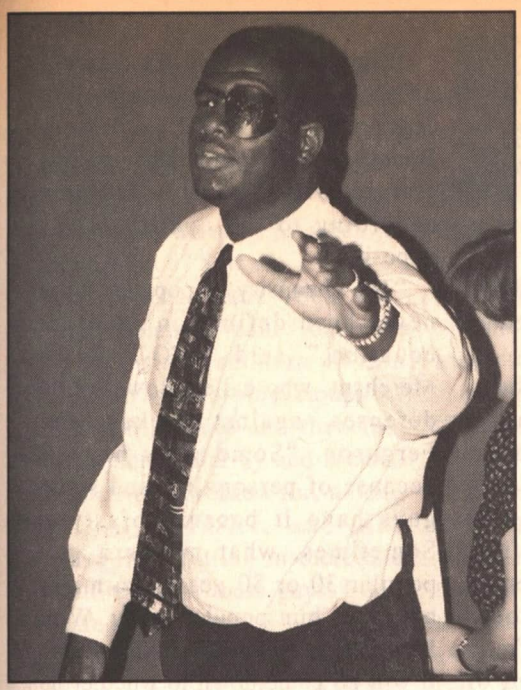
# Camera Clicks

*Best friends? Frank Maloney (Lennox Lewis) and a surprisingly silent Don King (Riddick Bowe) show how talks have been going on a Bowe-Lewis showdown.*

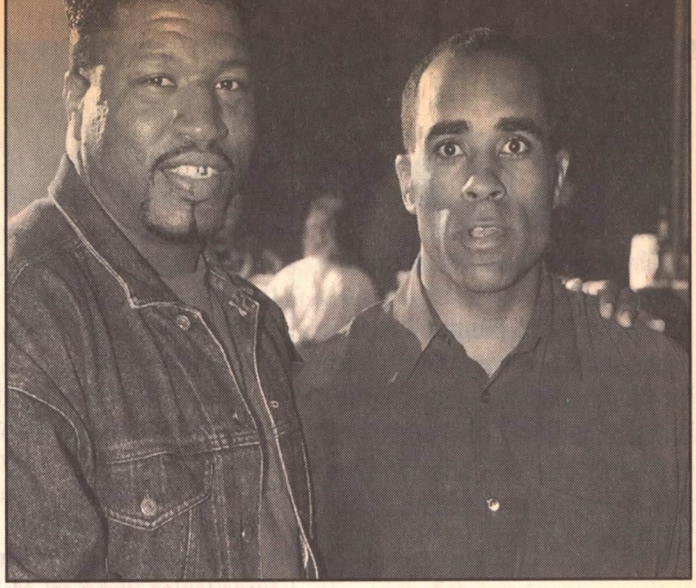
*Left: You're never too young! Underage ring card girl Verushka Sanchez struts her stuff at a fight in Newark, New Jersey. Lower left: It pays to advertise. Light heavyweight Ernest "M-16" Mateen shows off his new 'do.*



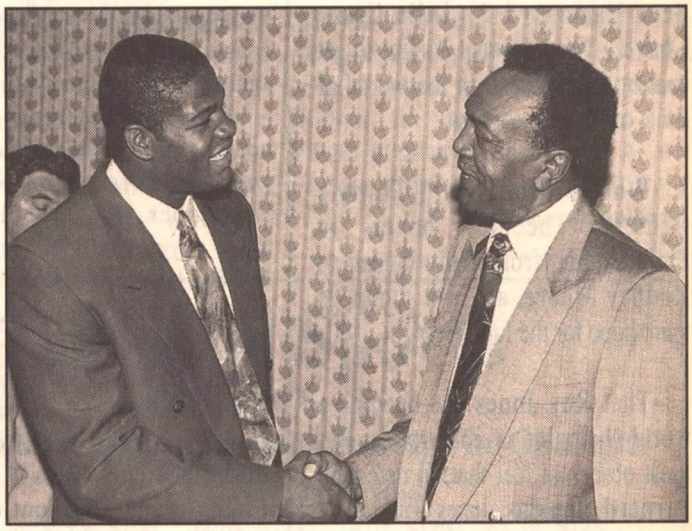
*Above: Can Montel Williams take a punch? (From Left to Right) Ray Mancini, Donny Lalonde, Bobby Czyz, and Vinny Pazienza would all like a shot.*

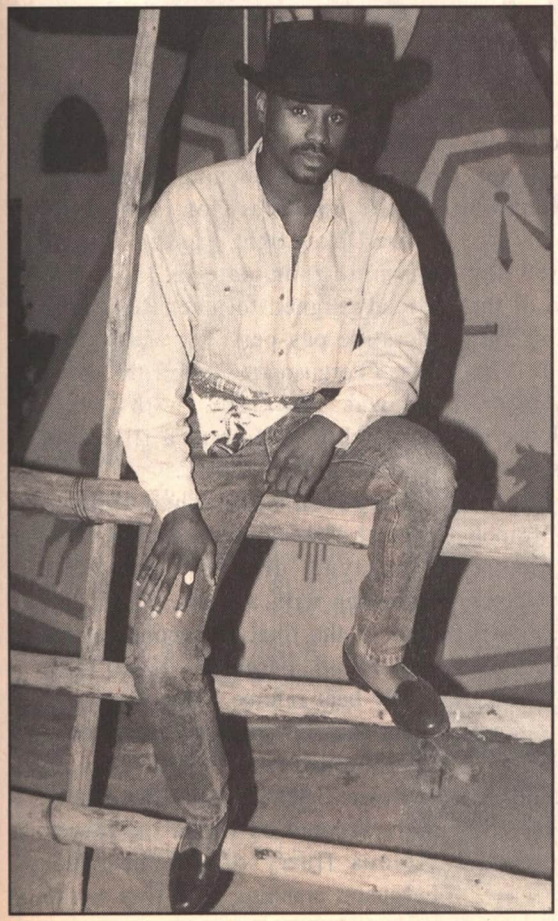


*Think Lennox Lewis would like a shot at a one-eyed Riddick Bowe? The WBA/IBF champion rehearses for his role as Wiley Post in the Will Rogers follies in June.*

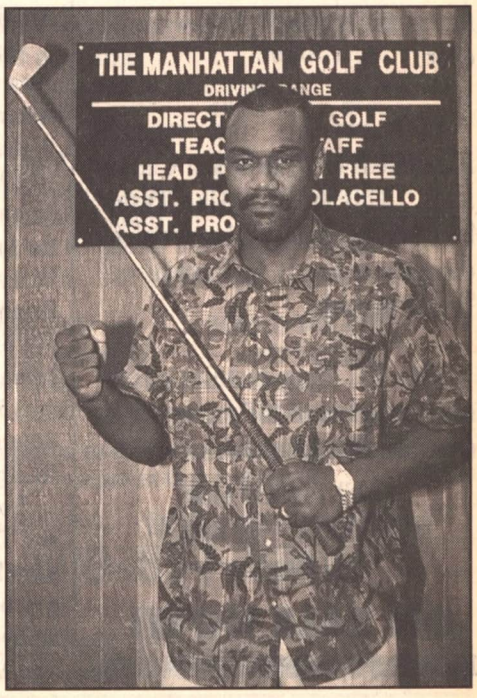


*Above: Heavyweight contender Ray Mercer and Indy driver Willie T. Ribbs trade shop talk in Indianapolis. Below: Riddick Bowe greets former light heavyweight champion Bob Foster at the IBF convention in May in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*





*Left: IBF lightweight champ Freddie Pendleton is just hanging around the 'ol corral in Albuquerque.*
*Right: Would the "Boogieman" hit a bogey? Jesse Ferguson considers taking up a new hobby while in New York City.*



## THIS MONTH IN

# KO

**The Fight Fans' Magazine**

•Cover Story: **Lennox Lewis** is fighting mad, and every time **Riddick Bowe** defends his share of the heavyweight title, Lewis gets a bit more angry. In an exclusive first-person story, Lewis promises to shut Bowe's mouth.

•It's becoming the fastest-growing club in boxing: Fighters Who Have Been Hammered By **Julio Cesar Chavez.** Discover what it's like to get beat up by the best, in the words of some of Chavez' victims.

•What's wrong with Philly's fighters? The best boxers in Philadelphia, from **Tony Green** to **Rodney Moore**, are in a slump. Is there hope for the future?

•That **Roy Jones** has become a world champion is no surprise. But most observers feel that, in defeating **Bernard Hopkins**, Jones could have been more impressive. Read what KO thinks about Jones' title-winning effort.

•KO presents the seventh installment of "The Tyson Chronicles." This month: **Mike Tyson** becomes the youngest heavyweight champion in history by knocking out **Trevor Berbick.**

•The KO Pinup features a full-color centerfold of IBF featherweight champion **Tom Johnson.**

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## Bowe

*(Continued from page 41)*

whelming opponents Terry Daniels and Ron Stander. The former was the son of a millionaire, and the latter a clubfighter who was rated no higher than 30th.

•Three-time heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali fought the best of three eras (Sonny Liston, Frazier, George Foreman, and Larry Holmes). In the middle of all that glory, he still found time to fight forgettables like Karl Mildenberger, Brian London, Jean-Pierre Coopman, Richard Dunn, and Alfredo Evangelista. His biggest sin, of course, was his 15-round exhibition against pro wrestler Antonio Inoki.

•Rocky Marciano won the heavyweight title by stopping 38-year-old Jersey Joe Walcott in September 1952. He then fought twice a year until his retirement in 1956. His opposition included a rematch with Walcott, two wins over Ezzard Charles (the first coming three weeks before Charles' 34th birthday and the second two months after), a knockout of unheralded Don Cockell, and finally a ninth-round knockout of 42-year-old light heavyweight champion Archie Moore.

•Jack Dempsey captured the crown, and the imagination of the American public, by thrashing Jess Willard on the Fourth of July in 1919. The "Manassa Mauler" defended twice in 1920 (with one of the bouts coming against his friend, Billy Miske, who was dying of Bright's disease), once in 1921, took all of 1922 off, made two more defenses in 1923, and then engaged in 15 exhibitions (and zero title defenses) through 1926, when he finally lost to Gene Tunney.

Today, Frazier, Ali, Marciano, and Dempsey rank among the most popular heavyweight champions in history. Remember, even the beloved Joe Louis had his "Bum Of The Month Club."

Even though Bowe's top 10 lacks an abundance of gladiators like Jerry Quarry, Ron Lyle, Oscar Bonavena, and Earnie Shavers, his stature will unfairly fluctuate according to the quality of his opposition.

"The chemistry of popularity has never been defined in an exact equation," said HBO's Larry Merchant, who called Bowe's title defenses against Dokes and Ferguson. "Some guys have it because of personality and some guys have it because of style. Sometimes, what makes a guy popular 30 or 50 years ago might not make him popular today. With Bowe, these fights will be forgotten. It will all come down to whether he can beat the people put in front of him. Particularly Lennox Lewis."

If what Bowe has done to Dokes and Ferguson is any indication of the kind of champion he will be, we should not be complaining.

"I don't think we've seen the best Bowe yet," said Goodman. "I think Bowe has tremendous talent. He has size, ability, power, and he's going to get better."

Ferguson, 224, Philadelphia, earned the opportunity to meet Bowe at Washington, D.C.'s RFK Stadium by decisioning Ray Mercer on the undercard of February's Bowe-Dokes fight. Mercer, Bowe's Olympic roommate in 1988, had already signed to meet Bowe in a lucrative pay-per-view showdown. When Ferguson pulled off the upset, he was rewarded with every clubfighter's dream: a title shot outdoors at the ballpark.

Ferguson hardly had time to cherish the moment. Bowe, 244, Brooklyn, dropped the 35-1 underdog with a short, potent left hook in the final 10 seconds of the first round. Ferguson, 19-10 (13), barely beat referee Larry Hazzard's count and still appeared dazed at the start of round two.

Bowe, 34-0 (29), needed just 17 more seconds to finish the job. A vicious flurry of punches sent Ferguson crashing face-first to the

canvas. Hazzard began a 10-count, only to stop midway through and wave the fight off. Bowe pocketed $7-million, and Ferguson a career-high $500,000.

Is this what we seek in a heavyweight champion? Sort of.

"That's what fans look for: explosive violence," said Goodman, who spent the summers of his boyhood at the training camps of Louis and Marciano and then followed his father Murray and became a publicist. (He worked for, among others, Ali, Frazier, and Ken Norton.) "He's getting in there and he is getting rid of these guys. Bowe takes care of business."

Few could find fault with the manner in which Bowe dispatched Dokes and Ferguson. In fact, Lewis made a mandatory defense against Tony Tucker, who was clearly a level above Dokes and Ferguson, but the WBC champion was belittled for winning a lackluster decision.

On the other hand, Merchant offered another perspective of what a heavyweight champion should be.

"The great thing about Muhammad Ali and Mike Tyson was that the people felt they had a heavyweight champion who would not only fight anyone, but who was eager to fight anyone," he said. "I think it's important for the heavyweight champion to create that impression. Whether it makes good business sense or not."

Bowe and Newman may be trying to create such an impression with words, not actions. When asked after the Ferguson fight when he would face a live opponent, Bowe answered, "I'll fight anybody. But I can't make them fight me. I've been trying to fight Lennox Lewis for the last five months."

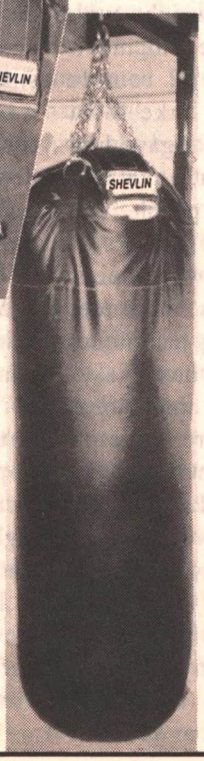
Newman added: "Jesse Ferguson was a live body, but Riddick Bowe takes the life out of them. We have made several real attempts to fight the guy [Lewis], who you all think would pose the toughest challenge."

There have been several attempts to bring Bowe and Lewis together. The Lewis camp, however, would hardly call them real. In February, both sides, conveniently situated on opposite coasts of the United States, agreed to a winner-take-all showdown. Nothing became of that.

A week before the Bowe-Ferguson fight, Newman offered the Lewis camp $12-million. The problem with that deal was that Lewis would be required to pay promoter Dan Duva, whose share could be as much as $5-million, out of the purse.

Bowe's current options include a rematch with Holyfield and a defense against Tommy Morrison, if Morrison does not agree to face Lewis. Also, unbeaten Michael Moorer is soon to become the WBA's mandatory challenger. As we went to press, it appeared Bowe's

*(Continued on page 54)*

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## Bowe

*(Continued from page 53)*

next fight would come against Holyfield.

"While I certainly want to see Bowe fight Lewis as much as anyone else, I know from experience that this criticism will pass," said Merchant. "It will be forgotten when the time comes. I don't know that he's ducking good fighters. A Holyfield fight is not a gimme. Soon, there will have to be serious negotiations to fight Lewis. Otherwise, people will perceive that he is ducking him."

And short of an abbreviated title reign, that would drastically alter Bowe's position in history more than anything else. ■

## Capriano

*(Continued from page 43)*

success with the amateurs under his supervision led to his 1928 appointment as head boxing coach.

Over the next 10 years Capriano trained hundreds of amateur fighters, including a slew of Golden Gloves champions. The Teasdale A.C. earned a reputation as one of New York City's premier amateur boxing clubs.

Occasionally, a top-ranked professional would ask Capriano for help in preparing for an important bout, as Mike Belloise did for his featherweight title match with Baby Arizmendi in 1934. Although he had plenty of opportunities to manage and train professionals, Capriano was content to stick with the amateurs. One of his best fighters at this time was Tami Mauriello, whom Capriano developed from raw novice to national amateur champion.

New York's vast amateur network served as the breeding ground for many future professional stars. It was at an amateur meet in the mid-'30s that Capriano got his first look at a flashy 90-pound prodigy named Ray Robinson.

At about the same time that Robinson was winning his first Golden Gloves title, Capriano was taking his first look at young Jake LaMotta. It did not take him long to realize that here was a genuine diamond.

"When his brother Joey, who I was training at the time, brought him up to me, Jake weighed 195 pounds," recalls Capriano. "After he came down to 180 pounds, I started him boxing in the gym. Jake was a southpaw. I converted him right away because nobody wanted to fight southpaws in those days. I trained him one full year before I put him into his first amateur fight."

In his 10 years of training fighters, Capriano had never seen such dedication and singleminded deter-mination in a prize fighter. LaMotta trained as if his breath depended on it.

"Jake worked like a beaver," Capriano says. "He never missed training. He'd hit the bag for an hour. He'd bang away at it while I was working with the other fighters."

Capriano credits one of his fighters, Walter Thomas, an experienced light heavyweight, with helping in LaMotta's development. Thomas boxed 10 to 12 rounds almost every day with Jake for a whole year. The workouts gave him endurance and stamina. Jake was strong and could take a punch. You could see he was a killer."

Hundreds of hours were spent perfecting LaMotta's balance, footwork, and punching technique. "Jake had a sloppy right hand," says Capriano. "It was a long time, about a year and a half, before he could throw a good straight right hand."

Capriano also taught LaMotta the same difficult but effective moves he had seen Shade perform to perfection years earlier.

"I taught him how to weave and roll right into an opponent," he says. "Jake developed into a terrific bodypuncher." After a year of intense training, newcomers to the gym mistook him for a professional, though he had yet to engage in his first amateur fight.

When Capriano finally entered him into amateur competition (in 1940), the 18-year-old had no trouble winning the Diamond Belt Sub-Novice light heavyweight title. "Jake was better than the Open Division light heavy champ," recalls Capriano. He should know; he trained the both of them.

Shortly after winning the Diamond Belt title, LaMotta turned professional under the management of Capriano, who gave up his job at the Teasdale A.C. to devote his full time and energy to the career of a rising star.

LaMotta went undefeated in his first 15 fights. Impressed with his strength and aggressive style, sportswriters dubbed him "The Bronx Bull." His fighting weight fluctuated between 158 and 165 pounds. He boxed as a middleweight or light heavyweight and could outmuscle opponents in either division.

In his 16th fight, LaMotta met his first name opponent, light heavyweight Jimmy Reeves in Cleveland in September 1941. Rallying toward the end of the fight, Jake dropped the hometown favorite seven times but still lost the decision. The riot that was started by outraged fans when the decision was announced is depicted in the opening scene of LaMotta's film biography, *Raging Bull.*

One year and 15 fights later, LaMotta, 26-4-1, was on the verge of a world ranking. Only four of his wins were by knockout, an indication not of his lack of punching power, but of the high caliber of his opposition. His most impressive victory was a 10-round decision over highly touted Jimmy Edgar, a Detroit stablemate of Joe Louis.

In contrast, Sugar Ray Robinson, who had turned pro five months before LaMotta, had established himself as the number-one welterweight contender by scoring 35

straight victories, including 27 by knockout. Even at this early stage of his spectacular career, experts were already calling Robinson an all-time great. There were very few welterweights who were capable of even extending him. In order to keep busy, he began taking on middleweights, though he still weighed less than 147 pounds.

LaMotta, a big middleweight who could mix it up with the best light heavyweights, was offered a match with the "Harlem Dandy." Robinson's adviser, George "The Emperor" Gainford, accepted the match because he believed his fighter would be too fast and clever for the Bronx bully boy. Capriano was confident that Jake's 19-pound weight advantage, plus his strength, resilience, and windmill attack, would prove to be too much for even Sugar Ray. Most of all, he knew what LaMotta was capable of doing. Capriano was certain that a fighter as great as Robinson would bring out the best in Jake. Nobody else gave the Bronx Bull much of a chance. The odds were 8-1 that Robinson would notch his 36th consecutive victory.

They met in October 1942, at Madison Square Garden. LaMotta, respectful of Robinson's awesome reputation, did not fight with his usual tenacity. He appeared hesitant and overly cautious, and allowed Robinson to control the pace.

Jake lost a unanimous 10-round decison. Even so, it was not exactly a romp for Robinson; Jake did manage to win three rounds.

Capriano says he learned how Robinson could be beaten the second time around.

"Jake wasn't ready for Robinson," he says. "He wasn't experienced enough the first time he fought him in the Garden. He tightened up, and Robinson was too fast."

Capriano decided to fine-tune LaMotta, build up his confidence, and secure the necessary experience by having him fight five times over the next three months. It was a schedule that would have disintegrated most of today's contenders. Jake took on Wild Bill McDowell (KO 5), Henry Chmielewski (W 10), Jimmy Edgar (W 10), Jackie Wilson (W 10), and Charley Hayes (KO 6). Not one of them was a soft touch, particularly Wilson, who had lost only two of 50 fights.

The rematch with Robinson took place two weeks after the Hayes fight, in February 1943, at Detroit's Olympia Stadium. The Olympia was able to outbid the Garden due to Jake's tremendous popularity with Detroit's fans ever since his dramatic second victory over Jimmy Edgar. (LaMotta would end up fighting 22 main events in Detroit.)

Because of LaMotta's decent showing in the first Robinson fight, the odds dropped to 9-2. Capriano decided to bring Jake in a few pounds lighter in order to give him more speed; Jake weighed in at 160 pounds and Robinson at 144. Capriano was confident that he had mapped out a strategy that would bring his superbly conditioned fighter to victory.

"Ray Robinson always threw a high left jab to the face," explains Mike. "As soon as the jab moved, Jake would go under with the right hand to the body and bring up a left hook to the head. Ray also had a tendency to loop his punches. I instructed Jake to keep his own left hand out, and when Robinson began his right hand bolo, to step right in with the left hook and bang him around. Jake had to pressure him all the time, move him all over the ring. Jake was fast on his feet. When Robinson ran, Jake was right after him, banging those hooks to the body and jaw, under and over. Ray was afraid of that. Robinson was always running. He knew he would be drilled to the body if he stopped moving. So Jake pushed him around, pressured him all the time, and that made an easy fight for him because Robinson couldn't get set, couldn't stand still to deliver those punches."

When Robinson did get his punches off, he found the Bull a surprisingly difficult target. "Jake was smart," says Capriano. "A lot of people thought he was getting hit, but he was rolling with the punches. He was rolling all the time."

Capping off a brilliant performance, Jake sent Robinson through the ropes for a nine-count in the eighth round. The underdog was awarded a close but unanimous 10-round decision.

Just three weeks later they were back in the Motor City for an encore performance. Robinson was floored again but managed to win a unanimous decision. At least that's what the record book says. The consensus among fight fans and reporters was that LaMotta deserved the victory.

From 1942 to 1951, Robinson and LaMotta were to cross gloves six times. Sugar Ray, playing matador to the Bronx Bull, won five of the fights. Nevertheless, LaMotta's victory should not be underrated. He was the only boxer to have defeated Robinson when that marvelous fighting machine was in his prime. If Robinson had not lost that one fight, he might have remained undefeated for more than 10 years and 132 fights!

LaMotta confirmed his greatness by defeating some of the most feared men of his era, such as Jose Basora, Bert Lytell, Tommy Bell, Holman Williams, Kid Chicken (Marcus Lockman), and Bob Satterfield. Aside from Robinson, his only setback during his peak years was a highly controversial loss to the great Lloyd Marshall. These outstanding contenders, all of whom happened to be black, were scru-pulously avoided by many top fighters. LaMotta willingly, if not eagerly, took them on.

Capriano had indeed cut and polished his diamond to a high gloss. As a team, he and LaMotta were virtually unbeatable. Yet when LaMotta finally won the middleweight championship by defeating Marcel Cerdan in 1949, the man who had harnessed the Bronx Bull's natural strength and shaped and

*(Continued on page 56)*

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# Capriano

*(Continued from page 55)*

refined his style and technique was not in his corner. In fact, the once-solid partnership had ended almost four years earlier, when LaMotta was the number-one ranked middleweight and one of boxing's hottest properties. At the time, it seemed that everyone wanted a piece of LaMotta. Business associates (Jake now owned a local professional baseball team), his lawyer, and friends all wanted to manage him. They attempted to drive a wedge between fighter and manager, and they succeeded.

"They started telling Jake I was making too much money with him," says Capriano. "They turned him against me."

When LaMotta demanded his release and Capriano refused to sign it, the volatile LaMotta flew into a rage. A bitter contractual dispute ensued, causing an irreconcilable rift in their relationship. On the advice of his divorce lawyer (who also wanted to manage him), Jake took Capriano to court in an attempt to break the contract. The judge saw no merit in the case and decided in Capriano's favor. But it didn't matter. The marriage was over.

By winning the case, Capriano was still officially Jake's manager. For a while he continued to make matches for him, but he never again trained LaMotta or worked in his corner.

In January 1946, a settlement was reached and Jake bought out Capriano's interest. The fighter and the manager who had trained him for almost seven years had officially split. Jake, using his brother as a front man, managed himself for the rest of his career.

Capriano is not alone in the belief that Jake was at his best during their years together. He was not in LaMotta's corner for the last three losing efforts against Robinson. One can only speculate what the results would have been had he been there.

The years have mellowed the Bronx Bull. Although he refuses to discuss in detail the circumstances that led to the breakup of their partnership, he acknowledges Capriano's role in shaping his early career.

"We accomplished a lot in the years we were together," LaMotta told THE RING. "Mike Capriano knew his business, he knew what he was doing. I have no hard feelings toward him. At that time, I wouldn't listen to nobody. I wouldn't listen to him. He did what he had to do, and I did what I had to do—that's all."

Capriano did not allow the break with LaMotta to slow him down. He has had a full and rewarding career in boxing. "I've enjoyed every bit of it," he says. Over the years he has maintained a productive stable of main event and preliminary class fighters. He is one of the few boxing people who both managed and trained his fighters. A Capriano fighter had the reputation of being a well-conditioned, tough, and dangerous boxer who knew how to bend and bang to the body. Some of his fighters: Steve Riggio, who twice defeated Rocky Graziano, featherweight contenders Harry LaSane and Pedro Biesca, lightweight Bobby Rosado, and heavyweight Jimmy Carollo. More recently he trained former Commonwealth middleweight champion Kenny Bristol and light heavyweight Willie "The Bull" Taylor.

Although Capriano's schedule may not be as active as it once was, his advice and counsel are still in demand. The type of experience and judgment he possesses is a rare commodity these days.

Not surprisingly, he rates Sugar Ray Robinson as the best fighter he has ever seen. "Jake was a tremendous fighter, but, for all-around ability, Robinson was the best," he says. "He could fight any way you wanted."

Asked if he thinks he will ever train another LaMotta, he shakes his head and answers with an emphatic "Never!"

Another Jake LaMotta may be out of the question, but time has not dimmed this ageless trainer's sharp eye for recognizing a young fighter's potential. And besides, the satisfaction he still derives from teaching a beginner the skills learned over a lifetime in boxing is reward enough.■

***Mike Silver is a freelance writer based in New York City.***

## Morrison

*(Continued from page 37)*

An adjusted attitude. It all adds up to a far more complete package. Any fighter who doesn't take Morrison seriously is guaranteed a quick trip to the shower and a "KO by" on his record.

### HAS MORRISON FINALLY SHED HIS WHITE HOPE LABEL?

Even though Morrison owns the best tan this side of George Hamilton, he's still Caucasian. Therefore, to a certain segment of the boxing world, he'll always be a White Hope. It may not be fair, but it cuts both ways: Just as some fans will always hold the color of his skin against him, others will support him for the same reason.

The media also does its share to keep the racial angle simmering. The day after the Foreman fight, New York's *Newsday* ran a headline that read: "Now, Tommy's White-Hot." Catchy but offensive, and certainly not calculated to erase Morrison's image.

To discerning observers, White Hope refers to more than just a boxer's pigmentation. It suggests a fighter who has been babied along on a steady diet of stiffs in order to cash in on his box-office appeal. Morrison fit that criterion earlier in his career, but for the past few years he's been fighting mostly decent opposition. On that basis, he is technically no longer a *true* White Hope.

### IS MORRISON A THREAT TO WIN THE TITLE?

Despite earning a unanimous decision by scores of 117-110 (Patricia Jarman and Dalby Shirley) and 118-109 (Jerry Roth), Morrison didn't thrill everyone. There were a lot of unhappy patrons in attendance who voiced their disapproval with both the decision and referee Mills Lane, who deducted a point from Foreman in the 10th round for hitting low. Ironically, Foreman had objected to the appointment of Lane (he was reportedly fearful that his criticism of the referee during HBO broadcasts would damage Lane's objectivity), but his protest was ignored.

Morrison's evasive tactics also met with substantial disapproval. Even the normally gracious Foreman alluded to his opponent's less than artful ducking and dodging.

"If I ever would have run and turned my back, they would have told me never to have been a boxer in the first place," chided the loser.

"I can understand the booing," said Morrison. "People pay a lot of money, and they want to see two guys beat the hell out of one another. But while the crowd wasn't pleased with my tactics, I was a very disciplined fighter. That's something I haven't shown in a long time."

At this point, Morrison has obviously matured enough to realize you can't please everybody, so you might as well please yourself. And nothing would please him more than winning a more legitimate version of the world title than the synthetic WBO crown he garnered for outpointing Foreman. Because of Morrison's marquee value, he'll undoubtedly get the opportunity.

According to Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, he and Cayton have reached an agreement for an autumn bout in Las Vegas, with the heavyweights splitting the purse 50-50. But that's far from Morrison's only option. Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, is also courting "The Duke," and if Holyfield, currently

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# '60s & '70s ISSUES

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## Morrison

*(Continued from page 57)*

next in line for Bowe, looks worn in his comeback bout with Alex Stewart, Newman is sure to make Morrison a handsome offer.

Whether Morrison eventually tackles Bowe or Lewis, the result is likely to be pretty much the same. It's an enormous leap from a 44-year-old Foreman to prime time Bowe and Lewis. And it's difficult to envision either champion falling to the same hit-and-run routine that had Big George looking like a dinosaur stuck in a tar pit.

If Morrison tries to finesse Bowe, "Big Daddy" will bulldoze past the jive and spank him like a baby. If Morrison opts to slug it out, the end will come even sooner.

"I was licking my chops," Bowe said after the Foreman fight.

A showdown with Lewis might not be so brutal, but there's no way Morrison can overcome the Englishman's speed and searing right hand.

"I have a lot of skills he hasn't seen," said Lewis. "I would just outbox him."

Despite the progress he's made, the highwater mark of Morrison's career could very well turn out to be his triumph over Foreman. And that's a lot more than you could ever have imagined, far less than what you had hoped for, or both. ■

## Ladd

*(Continued from page 16)*

Aaron Pryor, and Don Lalonde.

"I've sparred everybody from 130 pounds to heavyweight," he said. "You learn things with guys like that. I watch a lot of tapes and I try to pick things up. I want to be a thinking fighter and get them into a jabbing match. I've been getting back to my boxing skills, getting out of the slugging, and being smarter."

Ladd has already been the 12-round distance twice, both times for regional titles in his hometown. His biggest test, however, came in a six-rounder in New York City, when he narrowly outpointed then-unbeaten Floyd Williams in the first round of Don Elbaum's ill-fated pay-per-view tournament.

"I fight a lot better when a guy poses a big threat to me," Ladd said. "Williams gave me that big threat. Between him and myself, one of us was supposed to win the tournament. A lot of young fighters try to pace themselves. We got right into it. I'm a quick starter anyway."

The Memphis area is known for Elvis, the blues, and the Mississippi River. As far as boxing goes, Fortner says one-time cruiserweight contender Michael Greer and, more impressively, William "Gorilla" Jones, who reigned as world middleweight champion in the early-'30s, are the best the town has produced. In Ladd, Fortner may have found a fighter who can give the town a boxing name.

"He can fight a little bit and he's a good puncher," Fortner said. "He's real confident in himself, but he's not boastful. He doesn't walk around with his hat turned backwards, talking about how bad he is. I think he can probably win the world championship."

Echoed Ladd, "I'm just waiting for the opportunity for a shot. I believe that this time next year I'll be a world champion."

Then he won't have to bang his drum quite so slowly. ■

***Tommy Deas is a sportswriter for the Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News.***

## Conn

*(Continued from page 21)*

promoter, Mike Jacobs, made the rematch 15, even though it wasn't a title fight. Apostoli was a gladiator, and having that kind of competition enabled Conn to raise his game to a different level. He beat Apostoli in both fights.

Billy was supposed to be a rough, tough Dead End Kids type of guy, but when you got to know him, he really wasn't. He knew how to behave. It's just that he loved to fight so much.

## TEDDY BRENNER

Billy never had a job, didn't finish high school. He was strictly a fighter. And he didn't care who he fought. When a fight was over, if he won he'd say, "Get me some other stiff." And if he lost, he'd say, "Get me that bum again."

Billy was different. He would've fought winner-take-all. They had that hunger then—Graziano, LaMotta, Conn. The only one in recent years that I saw who had it was Duran. No matter the situation, they only knew one way to handle it—throw the first punch. It was a different era back then, and Billy was typical of the kids who became fighters. Today, a kid can be a millionaire before he has his first pro fight. That can change you.

Billy was the best light heavyweight I ever saw. He was a good instinctive fighter and a good streetfighter at the same time. And he learned from all those fights against tough competition. He was never a big puncher, but he didn't have to be.

I wouldn't call him rough-edged, maybe gruff-edged. But if he liked you, he'd do anything for you. He was one of my favorite fighters.

## MURRAY GOODMAN

Billy was a magnificent fighter; at light heavyweight, nobody could touch him. But he was a little bit bitter about life. He felt he should've won the heavyweight title. He didn't blame anybody, just himself. The shame of it all is that's what he's remembered for—

twice getting knocked out by Joe Louis. It bothered him all through his life.

It was one of those things he was bitter about. If he had the chance to do it over again, he would've done it differently; he would've boxed in the 13th round and gone on to outpoint Joe. But the funny thing is that boxing the way he did for 12 rounds was out of character. In the 13th he saw the chance to go for a kayo and he took it. That was in character.

I was at the fight in the Polo Grounds, June 19, 1941. I was seated in the auxiliary press section. Going in, I felt Billy had a helluva shot at winning. I clearly thought he was ahead when Louis caught up with him.

In the years after, Billy came to love Joe very much. But he didn't talk about the first fight much, and even when asked about it, he'd pretty much try to avoid it. We can second-guess all we want; everyone's been doing it for years. But the fact is that Billy Conn was a crap shooter. He gambled against Joe and he lost. Then again, Joe never did need more than the smallest of openings ... ■

# MSG

*(Continued from page 31)*

cheeseburgers, then swallow a whole bar of Ex-Lax. Of course he couldn't work the next day.

Emile Griffith was a great fighter, and he had a good way about him. He's never changed. Emile liked to run the streets, like me, and we both drank rum and Cokes. We'd go to clubs all night. Ken Norton was also a partier, and let's just say his reputation as a lady-killer was well-earned. He was a good-looking guy with a great body, and the women were all over him. Eddie Futch was his trainer, and Eddie was very much a disciplinarian. Every once in a while he'd say to Kenny, "If you don't want me around, I'll leave." That would set Kenny straight, at least for a while.

I worked a lot of Ali camps, but because Jerry Perenchio, and not the Garden, was the promoter of the first Frazier fight, I was just a spectator. That fight was the greatest event I've ever seen. There was a genuine demand from fans across the entire world, and the Garden was the perfect site for the perfect fight. Funny, I didn't think it was a great fight. In fact, for nine rounds I thought it was a stinker. But the anticipation and tension was so great that I've never seen the Garden like it since. You could never recapture the magic of that night.

Before the second fight, I worked the Frazier camp. Three or four days before the fight, Howard Cosell wanted to interview Ali and Frazier on ABC, only Joe was really steamed at Ali and didn't want to go. But Cosell told me, "It won't get out of hand." I said, "You don't understand, Joe's really pissed off!"

So we went to the studio and Cosell sat Ali and Frazier right next to each other, while he sat on the side, instead of the middle! I was off-stage, worrying like crazy.

They watched highlights from the first fight, and after every round, they're going, "I really got you that round, didn't I," and, "No, you didn't." Then Ali says, "You're ignorant," and I saw Joe blow. They stand up, and Joe just threw Ali to the floor. I jumped in, and he was twisting Ali's foot, and I was trying to pull him off, screaming, "Joe, Joe, let go! There's no fight if

*(Continued on page 61)*


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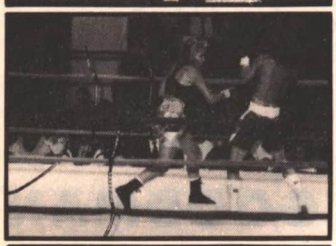

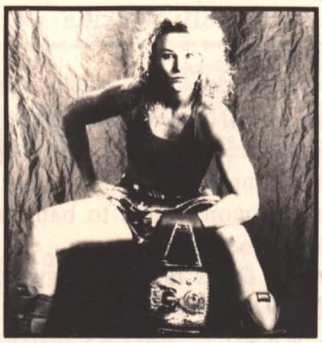

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# MSG

*(Continued from page 60)*

you pull his foot off!"

When I worked for Don King, we did a lot of Duran fights. He was a wild guy; when he was in New York, he lived at Victor's Cafe. I'd rate him up there with Chavez and Norton and Foster for partying. But he was also tremendously talented. I'd rate him one or two all-time at lightweight. He did something no other Latin fighter ever did. Carlos Ortiz was a great Puerto Rican fighter; Chavez a great Mexican fighter; Pambele Cervantes a great Colombian fighter. But Dugan was a great Latin fighter. There was a difference. The whole Latin world accepted him as a hero, and then the whole Anglo world accepted him as a great fighter. Just saying his name was magic.

My years with Don, when he was promoting at the Garden for Sonny Werblin in the early-'80s, was a separate chapter in Garden boxing history. We did Holmes-Weaver and Duran-Palomino, Cervantes-Montilla, Sanchez-Nelson, Gomez-Jimenez, Duran-Monroe Brooks, and some others. I was matchmaking for Don and doing publicity.

Don was excited promoting at the Garden because he had a sense of the building's history. But it was hard for the Garden to work with Don, because he wanted you to work for him. He wanted to do whatever he wanted, and remember, the Garden is part of a big corporation.

I was in Atlanta in '86, working the Tubbs-Witherspoon fight for Don, when I got a call from Bob Gutkowski, who said the Garden was looking for someone to run their boxing program, and my name had come up from a lot of guys. I said to him, "Maybe I'll talk to you after the fight," but he said, "We'd really like you to come up now." I got the job the next day, after about five minutes of talking with Bob and Alan Fields, who was the Garden's CEO. Part of me wanted to jump up, throw my arms into the air, and scream. I wanted to be a part of Madison Square Garden so much that I could taste it. I had always been a New Yorker, my dad had worked here ... it was almost a sacred place to me. It was a dream come true, and I hate to see it come to an end.

But I'm proud of what we've accomplished here. We've made eight world champions, and we took them from scratch and built them the old-fashioned way. The development process is something I love. That's where the gratification comes from, taking a Buddy McGirt or an Aaron Davis and seeing them improve and advance and become a world champion. When I started, the Garden boxing department was just providing the MSG network with programming. We started with nothing. But we wanted to build local talent.

I honestly believe I have more feelings for Madison Square Garden Boxing than anyone else, with the possible exception of Bob Gutkowski. My roots go deep, and I'm sorry that I won't be at the Garden any longer. There's a great sense of personal loss, and that the Garden is going to be regarded as just a site is a terrible thing. But I won't lose my enthusiasm or desire to accomplish my goals.

I'll always remember walking into the Garden. It was special, no matter how many times I did it. It wasn't so much the building as the name, and knowing how many greats had fought in that ring. All the greats. Sometimes I'd just sit there and think about the fights. I hope I get that opportunity again. ■


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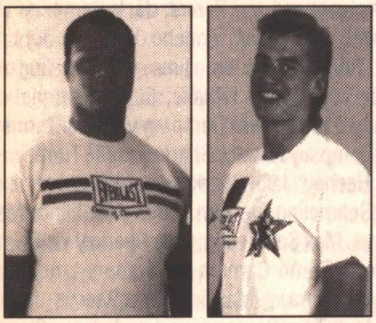

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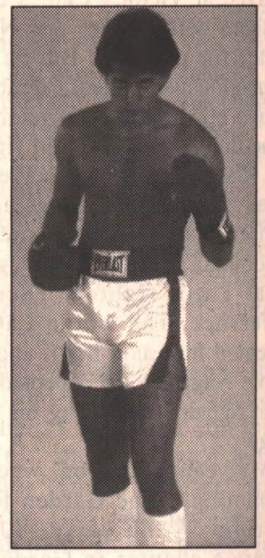

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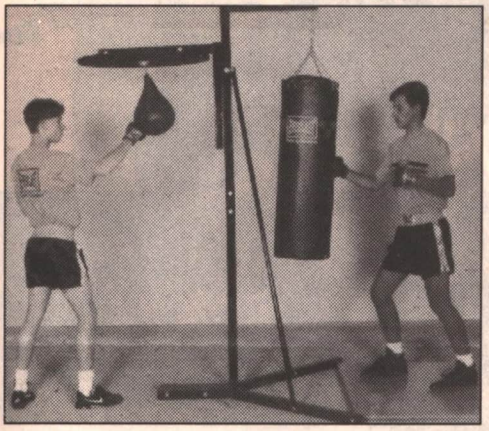

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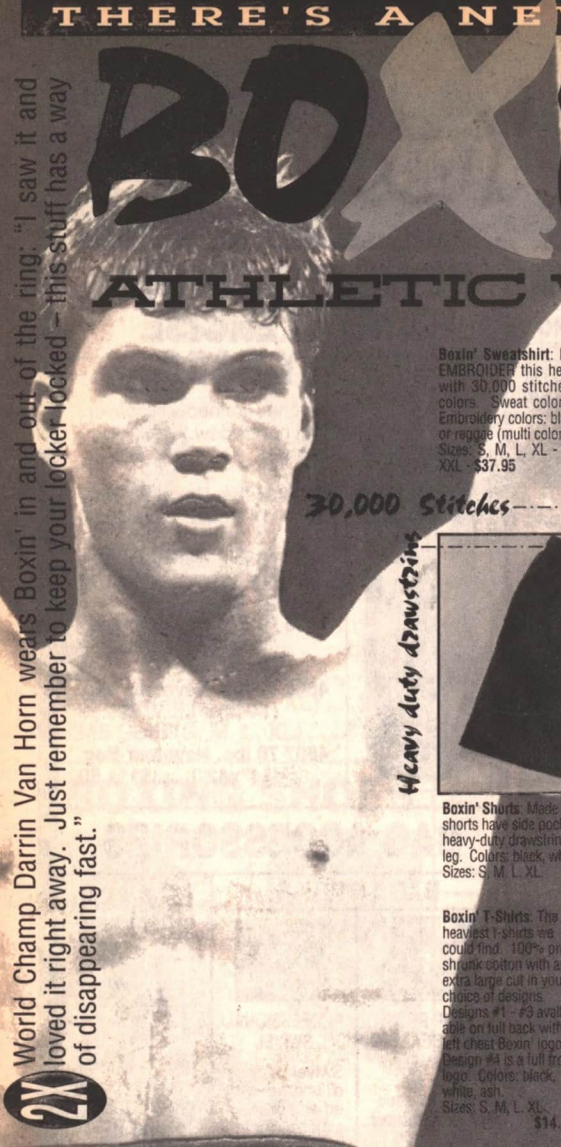

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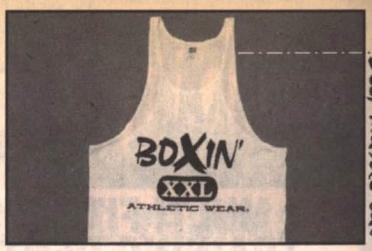


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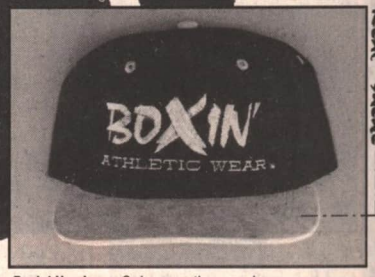


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# Boxing Collector's Notebook

**By Don Scott**

One of the most popular of all boxing collectibles is the boxing card. Just like baseball cards, boxing cards have been produced in this country since the 1880s. They first appeared in tobacco products, then in gum and candy. Unlike baseball cards, however, boxing cards have also been produced in countries around the world.

Card collectors either collect complete sets, all the cards of one fighter, one of each type of card (type collectors), or collect cards of certain eras. Some collectors go for it all, and their collections can be quite extensive.

Because rarity means so much in card collecting, several unusual situations exist. In 1910, the Mecca and Hassan tobacco companies put out a couple of colorful boxing sets that included such names as Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries in one set and John L. Sullivan and Jim Corbett in the other. While these are great names and beautiful cards, they are also not particularly rare. (The companies produced a large quantity.) At from $5 to $30 apiece, they do not compare favorably with prices of baseball cards of the day.

Much rarer and more valuable are two cards made some 40 years later. In 1951, Topps gum company made a large set called "Ringside," and in that set, for some unknown reason, #49, light heavyweight Bob Murphy, is hard to find. In mint condition it may fetch as much as $200. No other card in that set is worth as much, though Rocky Marciano is close.

Even rarer is a card made in 1948. For years collectors thought the Leaf gum company's "Knockout" set consisted of 49 cards, erratically numbered. Indeed, uncut sheets of the cards could be found that were exactly seven cards by seven cards. Then, about eight years ago, a Rocky Graziano Leaf emerged, and since then, only one other has been found. The Graziano card may not have been released except by accident, or may have been recalled. The last Graziano Leaf sold at auction for $700. One owner says he got his card in a trade with a neighborhood friend in New York City in 1949, so they must have been available. The next most expensive card in the set is the Joe Louis, at about $40 in mint condition.

In cards, condition is very important, and a card rated as only "fair" may sell for only 10 percent of what a "mint" card will sell for. Mint cards must have a new sheen, very sharp corners, and no blemishes or creases. Very minor imperfections lower this to "excellent," and what you and I might consider to be a card in great shape might be graded at only "good" or, at best, "very good."

The most challenging cards to collect are the pre-1900 cards. This is an expensive hobby for advanced collectors. Research is absolutely necessary to assemble a good 19th-century collection.

Beginners can come into card collecting with the new stuff. In the last three years, several sets were released that were very good. This is an inexpensive way to get a start. They can be found for sale by dealers in major sports collectors publications and at sports card shows. The four most popular sets are Ringlords, AW, Brown's, and Kayo.

This doesn't begin to cover this very diverse and fascinating end of the boxing collecting hobby. I'll try to cover a set now and then just to give you an idea what's out there. Better still, there's a book due out soon on boxing cards, and we'll let you know how you can get it upon publication. The author is England's Evan Jones.

**Feedback:** About once a month I get a package of mail inquiring about this collectible or that. If you will enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, I will be glad to respond. I cannot give appraisals of long lists of stuff, but will be happy to offer an opinion on a few items. If you want an issue of my **Boxing Collectors' News**, I'll send you one (free in USA only). Sometimes, reading BCN is better than getting an answer from the editor. BCN goes into much more detail. ■

*Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collectors' News. He can be reached through* THE RING.

# Worldwide Ratings

**WBC**
**as of May**

**WBA**
**as of May**

**IBF**
**as of June**

| HEAVYWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lennox Lewis (GB)** | C | – | – |
| **Riddick Bowe (USA)** | – | C | C |
| Evander Holyfield (USA) | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Tony Tucker (USA) | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Alex Garcia (USA) | 3 | 5 | – |
| Michael Moorer (USA) | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Alex Stewart (JAM) | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| Oliver McCall (USA) | 6 | 6 | 2 |
| Frank Bruno (GB) | 7 | 9 | – |
| Razor Ruddock (CAN) | 8 | – | – |
| Tony Tubbs (USA) | 9 | – | – |
| Lionel Butler (USA) | 10 | – | – |
| George Foreman (USA) | – | 3 | 6 |
| Tommy Morrison (USA) | – | 7 | – |
| Herbie Hide (GB) | – | 10 | 10 |
| Frank Bruno (USA) | – | – | 5 |
| Bruce Seldon (USA) | – | – | 8 |
| Mike Hunter (USA) | 15 | – | 9 |

| CRUISERWEIGHT | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Anaclet Wamba (FRA)** | C | – | – |
| **Bobby Czyz (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **Alfred Cole (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Akim Tafer (FRA) | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Orlin Norris (USA) | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Nate Miller (USA) | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Marcelo Figueroa (ARG) | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| Robert Daniels (USA) | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Masimiliano Duran (ITA) | 6 | – | – |
| Jeff Lampkin (USA) | 7 | – | – |
| Arthur Williams (USA) | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Norbert Ekassi (CAM) | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| Richard Mason (USA) | 10 | – | 11 |
| James Warring (USA) | 13 | 8 | 9 |
| Kenny Keene (USA) | 15 | 9 | – |
| Frans Botha (SA) | 20 | 10 | – |
| Uriah Grant (USA) | 17 | – | 3 |
| Jade Scott (USA) | 14 | – | 7 |
| Glen McCrory (GB) | 16 | – | 10 |

| LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)** | C | – | – |
| **Virgil Hill (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **Henry Maske (GER)** | – | – | C |
| Randall Yonker (USA) | 1 | 7 | – |
| Frank Tate (USA) | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Mike McCallum (JAM) | 3 | – | 8 |
| Anthony Hembrick (USA) | 4 | – | 1 |
| Guy Waters (AUSTRL) | 5 | – | – |
| David Vedder (USA) | 6 | – | – |
| Ernie Magdaleno (USA) | 7 | – | 2 |
| Egerton Marcus (CAN) | 8 | – | 7 |
| Wang Sup Lee (KOR) | 9 | – | – |
| Charles Williams (USA) | 10 | 10 | 4 |
| Wan Sub Lee (KOR) | – | 2 | – |
| Eddy Smulders (HOLL) | 12 | 3 | – |
| Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA) | 14 | 4 | 10 |
| Victor Cordoba (PAN) | – | 5 | – |
| Eric Nicoletta (FRA) | – | 6 | – |
| Crawford Ashley (GB) | 22 | 8 | – |
| Isaias Lucero (MEX) | 19 | 9 | – |
| Iran Barkley (USA) | – | – | 5 |
| Adolpho Washington (USA) | – | – | 6 |
| Darjusz Michalczawski (POL) | – | – | 9 |

| SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Nigel Benn (GB)** | C | – | – |
| **Michael Nunn (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **James Toney (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Henry Wharton (GB) | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| Tim Littles (USA) | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Darrin Van Horn (USA) | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| Mauro Galvano (ITA) | 4 | – | – |
| Frank Liles (USA) | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Tony Thornton (USA) | 6 | – | 3 |
| Tony Byrd (USA) | 7 | – | 5 |
| Thulane Malinga (SA) | 8 | – | – |
| Frank Nicotra (FRA) | 9 | 4 | 11 |
| Victor Cordoba (PAN) | 10 | – | – |
| Antoine Byrd (USA) | – | 3 | – |
| Iran Barkley (USA) | – | 6 | – |
| Mauricio Amaral (BRA) | 26 | 8 | – |
| Fidel Castro Smith (GB) | 12 | 9 | – |
| Merqui Sosa (DR) | 19 | 10 | 8 |
| Steve Little (USA) | 18 | – | 4 |
| Ray Close (GB) | 11 | – | 9 |
| Mwehu Beya (ITA) | 16 | – | 10 |

| MIDDLEWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Gerald McClellan (USA)** | C | – | – |
| **Reggie Johnson (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **Roy Jones (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Lamar Parks (USA) | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Julian Jackson (VI) | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Thomas Tate (USA) | 3 | – | 2 |
| Frederic Seillier (FRA) | 4 | – | – |
| Steve Collins (IRE) | 5 | 4 | – |
| Otis Grant (CAN) | 6 | 10 | – |
| Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA) | 7 | 9 | – |
| Frank Grant (GB) | 8 | – | 6 |
| Bernard Hopkins (USA) | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| Joe Gatti (USA) | 10 | 3 | 7 |
| Jorge Castro (ARG) | – | 5 | 10 |
| Mike McCallum (JAM) | – | 6 | – |
| Shinji Takehara (JAP) | 22 | 8 | – |
| Vinny Pazienza (USA) | – | – | 4 |
| Gilbert Baptist (USA) | 14 | – | 8 |
| Manuel Medina (SPA) | – | – | 9 |

| JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Terry Norris (USA)** | C | – | – |
| **Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)** | – | C | – |
| **Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)** | – | – | C |
| Simon Brown (USA) | 1 | 5 | – |
| Aaron Davis (USA) | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Laurent Boudouani (FRA) | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Carl Daniels (USA) | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| Troy Waters (AUSTRL) | 5 | – | 4 |
| Vincent Pettway (USA) | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| Andy Till (GB) | 7 | – | 10 |
| Steven Martinez (USA) | 8 | – | – |
| Yung Kil Chung (KOR) | 9 | 3 | – |
| Vinny Pazienza (USA) | 10 | 2 | – |
| Curtis Summit (USA) | – | 7 | 9 |
| Vernon Phillips (USA) | 12 | 8 | – |
| Ronald Wright (USA) | – | 10 | – |
| Gilbert Dele (FRA) | 13 | – | 3 |
| Lloyd Honeyghan (GB) | 18 | – | 5 |
| Julio C. Green (USA) | – | – | 8 |

| WELTERWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Pernell Whitaker (USA)** | C | – | – |
| **Crisanto Espana (VEN)** | – | C | – |
| **Maurice Blocker (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Santos Cardona (PR) | 1 | – | – |
| Ike Quartey (GHA) | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Yori Boy Campas (MEX) | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| James McGirt (USA) | 4 | 10 | 6 |
| Felix Trinidad (PR) | 5 | – | 7 |
| Jung Oh Park (KOR) | 6 | 2 | – |
| Larry Barnes (USA) | 7 | – | 5 |
| Gary Jacobs (GB) | 8 | 4 | – |
| Meldrick Taylor (USA) | 9 | 5 | 10 |
| Pat Barrett (GB) | 10 | – | – |
| Kevin Pompey (USA) | 12 | 6 | 3 |
| Moises Rivera (PR) | – | 7 | – |
| Luis Garcia (VEN) | – | 8 | 1 |
| Genaro Leon (MEX) | 23 | 9 | – |
| Stephan Johnson (USA) | – | – | 4 |
| David Gonzalez (USA) | 13 | – | 9 |

| JR. WELTERWEIGHTS | WBC | WBA | IBF |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)** | C | – | – |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Juan M. Coggi (ARG)** | – | C | – |
| **Charles Murray (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Frankie Randall (PR) | 1 | – | – |
| Hector Camacho (PR) | 2 | – | – |
| Valery Kayumba (ZAI) | 3 | 1 | – |
| Terrence Alli (USA) | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| Hector Lopez (MEX) | 5 | – | – |
| Greg Haugen (USA) | 6 | – | – |
| Andy Holligan (GB) | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| Kostya Tszyu (CIS) | 8 | – | 4 |
| Pedro Sanchez (DR) | 9 | – | 6 |
| Vincent Phillips (USA) | 10 | – | – |
| Frankie Randall (USA) | – | 2 | 2 |
| Loreto Garza (USA) | 20 | 3 | – |
| Morris East (PHIL) | – | 4 | 11 |
| Alberto Cortes (ARG) | – | 5 | – |
| Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP) | – | 7 | – |
| Eder Gonzalez (COL) | – | 8 | – |
| Jose Barroza (VEN) | – | 10 | – |
| Rafael Pineda (COL) | – | – | 1 |
| Rodney Moore (USA) | 17 | – | 5 |
| Juan LaPorte (PR) | – | – | 7 |
| Angel Hernandez (PR) | 12 | – | 8 |
| Pedro Padilla (COL) | – | – | 10 |

| **LIGHTWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)** | C | – | – |
| **Tony Lopez (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **Fred Pendleton (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Rafael Ruelas (USA) | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Leavander Johnson (USA) | 2 | – | 4 |
| Sharmba Mitchell (USA) | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA) | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Darryl Tyson (USA) | 5 | – | – |
| Nazarov Olzubek (CIS) | 6 | 1 | – |
| Wilfrido Rocha (COL) | 7 | – | – |
| Chad Broussard (USA) | 8 | 10 | – |
| Miguel Julio (COL) | 9 | 8 | 2 |
| David Sample (USA) | 10 | – | – |
| Dingaan Thobela (SA) | – | 2 | – |
| Joey Gamache (USA) | 12 | 4 | 11 |
| Fabian Tejeda (ARG) | – | 7 | – |
| Jorge Paez (MEX) | – | 9 | 7 |
| Eduardo Molina (COL) | 24 | – | 5 |
| Tracy Spann (USA) | 14 | – | 6 |
| Orlando Marimon (COL) | – | – | 8 |
| Carl Griffith (USA) | 13 | – | 10 |

| **JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Azumah Nelson (GHA)** | C | – | – |
| **Genaro Hernandez (USA)** | – | C | – |
| **John-John Molina (PR)** | – | – | C |
| Regilio Tuur (HOLL) | 1 | – | 7 |
| Gabriel Ruelas (USA) | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL) | 3 | – | – |
| Calvin Grove (USA) | 4 | – | 5 |
| Renato Cornett (AUSTRL) | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Jimmy Garcia (COL) | 6 | – | – |
| Tiger Ari (PHIL) | 7 | 8 | – |
| Victor Hugo Paz (ARG) | 8 | 5 | – |
| Ed Hopson (USA) | 9 | – | 12 |
| Oscar De La Hoya (USA) | 10 | – | 8 |
| Harold Warren (USA) | – | 1 | – |
| Jesus Gutierrez (PAN) | 28 | 2 | – |
| Marcos Guevara (VEN) | 20 | 6 | – |
| Yuji Watanabe (JAP) | 25 | 7 | – |
| Raul Perez (MEX) | – | 9 | – |
| John Brown (USA) | 16 | 10 | 10 |
| Bernard Taylor (USA) | – | – | 1 |
| Wilson Rodriguez (SPA) | – | – | 2 |
| Moises Pedroza (COL) | – | – | 3 |
| Manuel Medina (MEX) | – | – | 4 |

| **FEATHERWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Gregorio Vargas (MEX)** | C | – | – |
| **Yung Kyun Park (KOR)** | – | C | – |
| **Tom Johnson (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Kevin Kelley (USA) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Paul Hodkinson (GB) | 2 | – | 12 |
| James Leija (USA) | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| Jose Vida Ramos (DR) | 4 | – | – |
| Miguel Arrozal (PHIL) | 5 | – | 7 |
| Seiji Asakawa (JAP) | 6 | 7 | – |
| Ever Beleno (COL) | 7 | 4 | 5 |
| Luisito Espinosa (PHIL) | 8 | 3 | – |
| Colin McMillan (GB) | 9 | – | – |
| Francisco Segura (USA) | 10 | – | 4 |
| Eloy Rojas (VEN) | – | 2 | – |
| Orlando Soto (PAN) | – | 5 | 2 |
| Chris Saguid (PHI) | – | 8 | – |
| Jose Samabria (VEN) | – | 9 | – |
| Tae Sik Chun (KOR) | – | 10 | – |
| Baby Rojas (COL) | – | – | 3 |
| Harold Warren (USA) | – | – | 6 |
| Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX) | – | – | 9 |
| Tony Green (USA) | 12 | – | 10 |

| **JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Tracy Patterson (USA)** | C | – | – |
| **Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)** | – | C | – |
| **Kennedy McKinney (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Daniel Zaragoza (MEX) | 1 | – | – |
| Jesus Salud (USA) | 2 | 7 | 1 |
| Julio Gervacio (DR) | 3 | – | 3 |
| Cesar Soto (MEX) | 4 | – | 4 |
| Rudy Zavala (USA) | 5 | – | 5 |
| Jae Won Choi (KOR) | 6 | 1 | – |
| Welcome Ncita (SA) | 7 | 10 | 2 |
| Freddie Cruz (DR) | 8 | – | – |
| Jose Garcia (DR) | 9 | – | – |
| Yuichi Kasai (JAP) | 10 | 4 | – |
| Ramon Guzman (VEN) | 28 | 2 | – |
| Hiroaki Yokota (JAP) | 16 | 3 | – |
| Luis Mendoza (COL) | 12 | 5 | 11 |
| Antonio Cermeno (VEN) | 24 | 6 | – |
| Arnulfo Romero (PAN) | 27 | 8 | – |
| Thierry Jacob (FRA) | – | 9 | – |
| Nurhuda (INDO) | 29 | – | 6 |
| Cesar Polanco (DR) | 19 | – | 7 |
| Maui Diaz (USA) | 13 | – | 8 |
| Richard Duran (USA) | – | – | 9 |
| Jose Rincones (VEN) | – | – | 10 |

| **BANTAMWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Jung II Byun (KOR)** | C | – | – |
| **Eliecer Julio (COL)** | – | C | – |
| **Orlando Canizales (USA)** | – | – | C |
| Junior Jones (USA) | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP) | 2 | – | – |
| Victor Rabanales (MEX) | 3 | – | – |
| Daorung Chuvatana (THAI) | 4 | 2 | – |
| Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP) | 5 | 5 | – |
| Eddie Cook (USA) | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Chang Kyun Oh (KOR) | 8 | – | – |
| Jesus Sarabia (USA) | 9 | 10 | – |
| Josefino Suarez (MEX) | 10 | – | – |
| Abraham Torres (VEN) | 24 | 3 | 4 |
| Nana Konadu (GHA) | – | 7 | – |
| Alfred Kotey (GHA) | – | 8 | – |
| Israel Contreras (VEN) | – | 9 | – |
| Juvenal Berrio (COL) | – | – | 2 |
| Harold Mestre (COL) | 23 | – | 3 |
| Ricardo Vargas (MEX) | – | – | 5 |
| Clarence Adams (USA) | 21 | – | 7 |
| Lauren Ramirez (SPA) | – | – | 8 |
| Gerardo Martinez (USA) | – | – | 9 |
| Luis Rolon (PR) | – | – | 10 |

| **JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sung Kil Moon (KOR)** | C | – | – |
| **Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)** | – | C | – |
| **Julio Borboa (MEX)** | – | – | C |
| Greg Richardson (USA) | 1 | – | – |
| Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI) | 2 | 1 | – |
| Carlos Salazar (ARG) | 3 | – | – |
| Armando Salazar (MEX) | 4 | – | – |
| Marco A. Barrera (MEX) | 5 | – | 9 |
| Jose Luis Bueno (MEX) | 6 | – | – |
| Nana Konadu (GHA) | 7 | – | – |
| Bernardo Mendoza (CHILE) | 8 | – | – |
| Cecilio Espino (MEX) | 9 | – | – |
| Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP) | 10 | – | – |
| Hyung Chul Lee (KOR) | 15 | 2 | – |
| Kotaro Hayashi (JAP) | 13 | 3 | – |
| Josefino Suarez (MEX) | – | 4 | – |
| Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX) | 11 | 5 | – |
| David Marchan (VEN) | – | 6 | – |
| Ernie Cataluna (PHIL) | – | 7 | – |
| Lamhot Simamora (INDO) | 29 | 8 | – |
| Jerry Penalosa (PHIL) | 12 | 9 | – |
| Ivan Morales (PR) | – | 10 | – |
| Carlos Mercado (COL) | – | – | 1 |
| San Sor Pleonchit (THAI) | – | – | 2 |
| Joel Luna (MEX) | – | – | 3 |
| Harold Gray (COL) | – | – | 4 |
| Robert Quiroga (USA) | 19 | – | 5 |
| Rodolfo Blanco (COL) | – | – | 6 |
| Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA) | – | – | 7 |
| Little Guns Pumar (PHIL) | – | – | 8 |
| John Johnson (USA) | – | – | 10 |

| **FLYWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)** | C | – | – |
| **David Griman (VEN)** | – | C | – |
| **Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)** | – | – | C |
| Isaias Zamudio (USA) | 1 | – | 1 |
| Seung Koo Lee (KOR) | 2 | 6 | – |
| Alfred Kotey (GHA) | 3 | – | – |
| Hugo Soto (ARG) | 4 | – | – |
| Francisco Tejedor (COL) | 5 | – | 5 |
| Yun Un Chin (KOR) | 6 | – | – |
| Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI) | 7 | – | – |
| Jesus Zuniga (COL) | 8 | – | – |
| Mark Johnson (USA) | 9 | – | 11 |
| Scotty Olson (USA) | 10 | – | 3 |
| Alvaro Mercado (COL) | 13 | 1 | – |
| Hiroki Ioka (JAP) | – | 2 | – |
| Aquiles Guzman (VEN) | – | 3 | – |
| Evangelino Perez (PAN) | – | 4 | – |
| Yong Kang Kim (KOR) | – | 5 | – |
| Hisashi Tokushima (JAP) | 20 | 7 | – |
| San Sor Pleonchit (THAI) | 12 | 8 | – |
| Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX) | – | 9 | 2 |
| Jose Bonilla (VEN) | – | 10 | – |
| Toto Pangswant (THAI) | – | – | 4 |
| Kyung Yon Lee (KOR) | – | – | 6 |
| Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI) | – | – | 7 |
| Saul Guaza (COL) | – | – | 8 |
| Robbie Regan (GB) | 14 | – | 9 |
| Arthur Johnson (USA) | – | – | 10 |

| **LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Michael Carbajal (USA)** | C | – | C |
| **Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)** | – | C | – |
| Humberto Gonzalez (MEX) | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| Nam Hoon Cha (KOR) | 2 | 4 | – |
| Javier Varguez (MEX) | 3 | – | – |
| Jesus Chong (MEX) | 4 | 6 | – |
| Melchor Cob Castro (MEX) | 5 | – | 11 |
| Kwang Sun Kim (KOR) | 6 | 7 | – |
| Shiro Yahiro (JAP) | 7 | 3 | 12 |
| Domingo Sosa (DR) | 8 | 10 | – |
| Raul Rios (MEX) | 9 | – | – |
| Juan Torres (PAN) | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Leo Gamez (VEN) | 19 | 2 | – |
| Virgilio Chifundo (PAN) | 15 | 5 | – |
| Yuichi Hosono (JAP) | – | 8 | – |
| Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI) | – | – | 2 |
| Eric Griffin (USA) | – | – | 3 |
| Jesus Zuniga (COL) | – | – | 4 |
| Robinson Cuesta (PAN) | – | – | 6 |
| Azadin Anhar (INDO) | – | – | 7 |
| Leon Salazar (PAN) | – | – | 8 |
| Pronchai Sithpraporom (THAI) | – | – | 9 |
| Kyun Kim (KOR) | – | – | 10 |

| **STRAWWEIGHTS** | **WBC** | **WBA** | **IBF** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Ricardo Lopez (MEX)** | C | – | – |
| **Chana Porpaoin (THAI)** | – | C | – |
| **Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)** | – | – | C |
| Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX) | 1 | – | – |
| Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP) | 2 | 9 | – |
| Kermin Guardia (COL) | 3 | 4 | – |
| Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI) | 4 | 6 | – |
| Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI) | 5 | 5 | – |
| Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL) | 6 | – | – |
| Hi Yong Choi (KOR) | 7 | 1 | – |
| Aswin Sithlukmuang (THAI) | 8 | – | – |
| Toto Pol Polgsawang (THAI) | 9 | – | – |
| Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI) | 10 | – | – |
| Ala Villamor (PHIL) | – | 2 | 1 |
| Carlos Murillo (PAN) | – | 3 | 9 |
| Rafael Torres (DR) | – | 7 | 5 |
| Jin Ho Kim (JAP) | – | 8 | – |
| Miguel A. Granado (MEX) | – | 10 | – |
| Felix Naranjo (COL) | – | – | 2 |
| Carlos Rodriguez (VEN) | 13 | – | 3 |
| Marcelino Bolivar (VEN) | 14 | – | 4 |
| Kwang Sun Kim (KOR) | – | – | 6 |
| Manny Melchor (PHIL) | 26 | – | 7 |
| Ekawit Singhchatchawal (THAI) | – | – | 8 |
| Aswin Sasiprakyim (THAI) | – | – | 10 |

RING CLASSIC

# U.S. RETAINS WORLD TITLE

**From THE RING, January 1954**

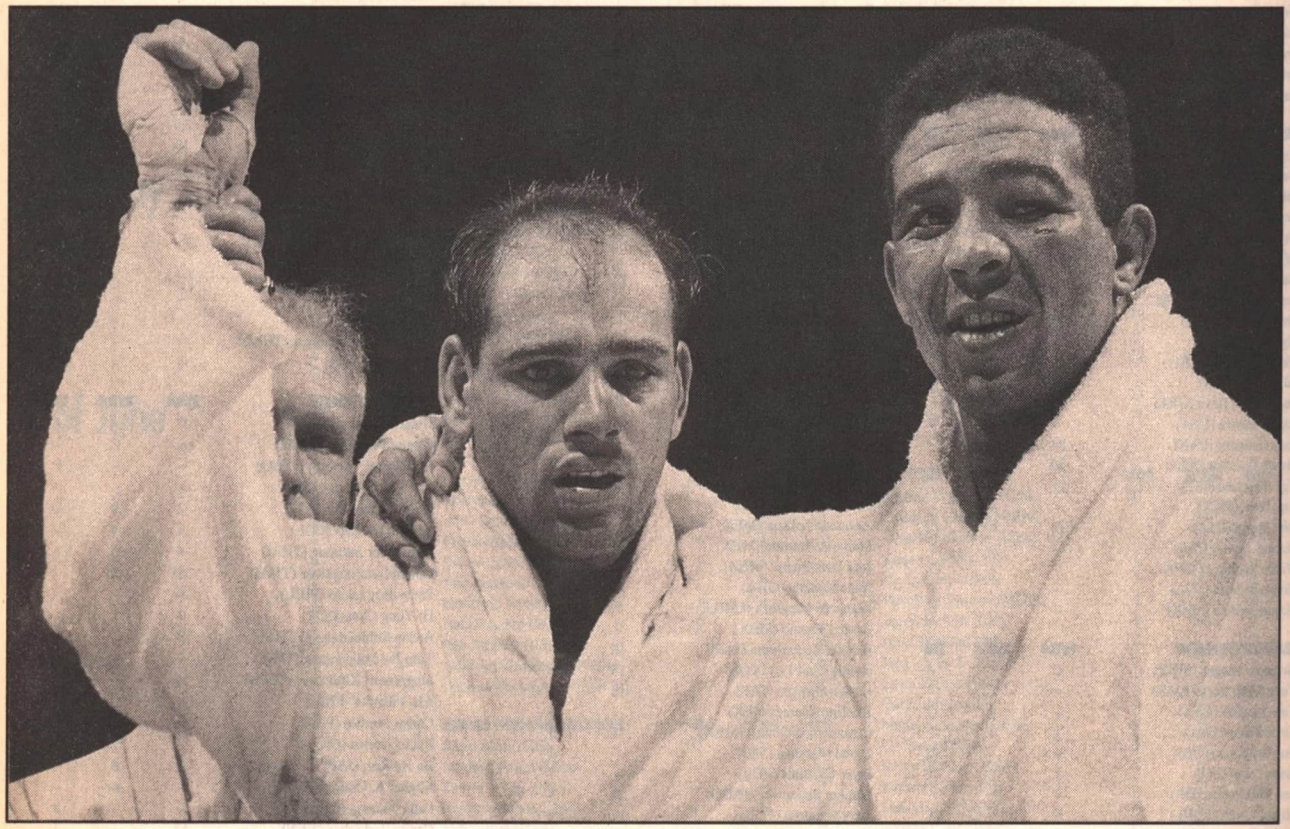
**By Nat Fleischer**

Out of the 15-round fight between the American Bobo Olson and the British Randy Turpin, in the Garden in New York on October 21, came at least one salutary result. The controversy over the ownership of the middleweight championship of the world was settled, once and for all. Olson took the title, his to defend.

The surprisingly large turnout of 18,869, which paid $167,651 at the box office, with an additional $60,000 fee from television, got its money's worth. The general opinion was that Bobo and Randy had produced a good fight, an interesting drama in which there had been an element of suspense for most of the 45 minutes of action.

The cognoscenti of the press rows were not so enthusiastic. They deplored Olson's lack of a knockout punch, and Turpin's lack of the fire and fighting equality which once had won for him the middleweight title over Ray Robinson. Yet the bout was a most pleasing one.

The experts had wanted a more decisive result. That is, a knockout. However, the contest certainly was sufficiently decisive even minus the quietus. There was utterly no complaint



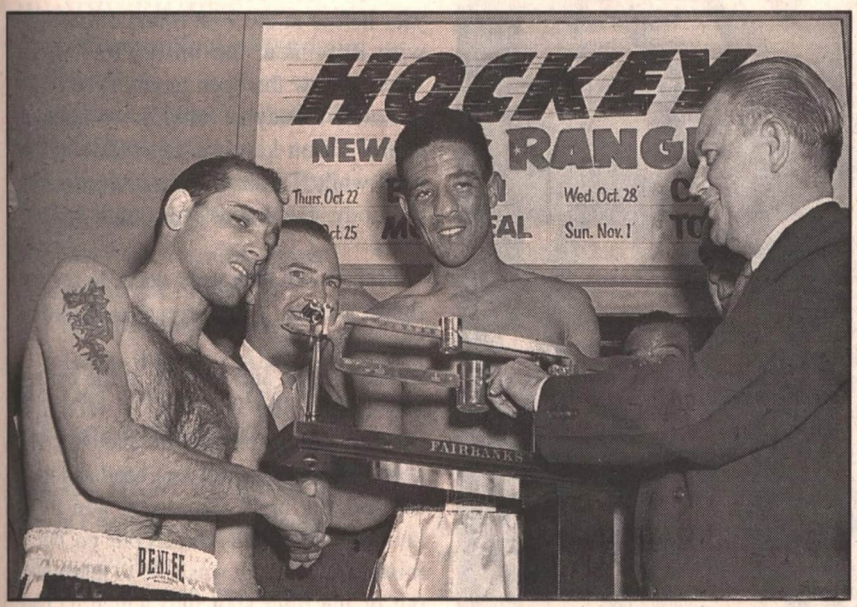
*Turpin acknowledges that Olson is the new middleweight champion. Olson won a unanimous verdict to succeed a retired Sugar Ray Robinson.*

with the unanimous decision.

Referee Al Berl produced a score of 9-4-2 in favor of Olson. Charley Shortell, one of New York State's most alert and best judges, saw it 11-4 for Olson, and judge Arthur Susskind, another excellent judge, who once fought under the name of Young Otto, had it as close as 8-7 for Olson. The fans thought that tally was out of kilter with what actually happened, considering that there were two knockdowns.

As I saw the fight, Olson took nine rounds and Turpin five, with one even. To Randy went the first three on my card. After the fifth, the Briton receded gradually until he presented a mere imitation, with an exceptional turn for the better, of the Turpin who had beaten Robinson, and not too close to the Turpin who had been stopped at the Polo Grounds in 10 rounds by Sugar Ray.

Of the members of THE RING staff who covered the fight, Nat Loubet tallied it 10-5 for Olson; Jersey Jones 9-5-1; Dan Daniel 11-4; Johnny Salak 11-4; Lew Eskin 10-4-1; Ted Carroll 11-3-1; and Joe Smith 10-5.




*Olson and Turpin weigh in the day of the fight under the watchful eye of New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Bob Christenberry.*

***

When, immediately after the contest, Olson was asked if he believed Turpin to be entitled to a return fight, Bobo replied in the negative. Not that Turpin already had asked for a return match. In fact, Randy's showing made British boxing experts feel quite convinced that Turpin was looking eagerly in the direction of a fresh marriage, and ring retirement. He definitely let the British down by lack of training.

American boxing students were no more interested in another Olson-Turpin fight than Bobo himself was. Bobo's margin of victory was too big to have earned for Turpin another chance.

The general belief was that Olson's first defense of the world title would have to be against Kid Gavilan, now too heavy to continue in the welterweight division, but still an excellent box office attraction.

A fight with the Cuban will fill the San Francisco Cow Palace. It's a natural.

An Olson-Gavilan scrap would not lack for action, for suspense, for the high uncertainty which makes the ideal match. The Cuban Bolo Kid fits properly into the new picture.

True, "The Hawk" from Havana is not the fighter he used to be. But it is conceivable that the tremendous incentive of a shot at the middleweight title would bring back the old Gavilan fire, the old bolo punch wizardry, the zest for training and for achievement. He has a big following, is an excellent crowd-pleaser, and possesses the necesarry qualifications to give Olson a good fight and an opportunity to make a financial haul in his first defense. Such a bout is wanted by the fighters, the managers, promoter Jim Norris, who has first call on the services of both, and the public. I'm certain it will take place in February.

***

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown. Olson finally has become the 160-pound leader of the world. But his triumph has come at an advanced stage of his career, which finds him troubled sorely by the 160-pound limit. But with proper training such as fitted him for the Turpin fight, he will make the class limit when called upon to do it.

Turpin had trouble making the weight until some 10 days before the fight. Then he weakened himself, and at the weighing in, tipped the beam at 157. Far too low for Randy.

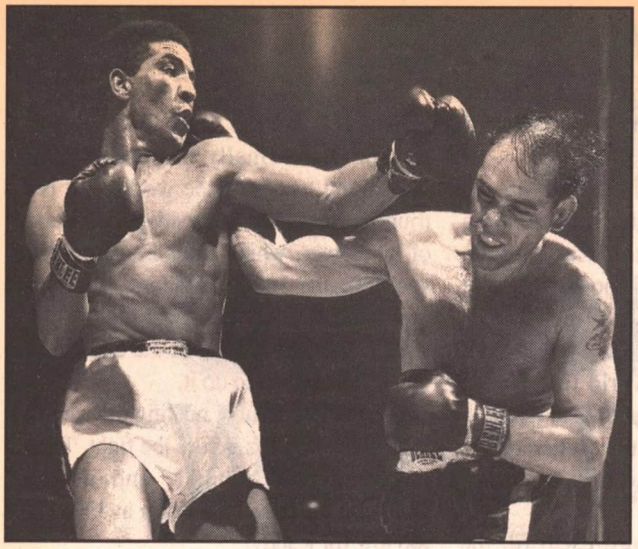
His strength had been sapped, and he appeared to realize that he had to win early by a knockout, or be worn down. Randy nearly nailed Bobo in the first round, with a right to the jaw and a left to the body. Toward the close of this heat, Randy shook him up with another hard right to the jaw. His own chance was to gain a quick kayo, and that's what he went after.

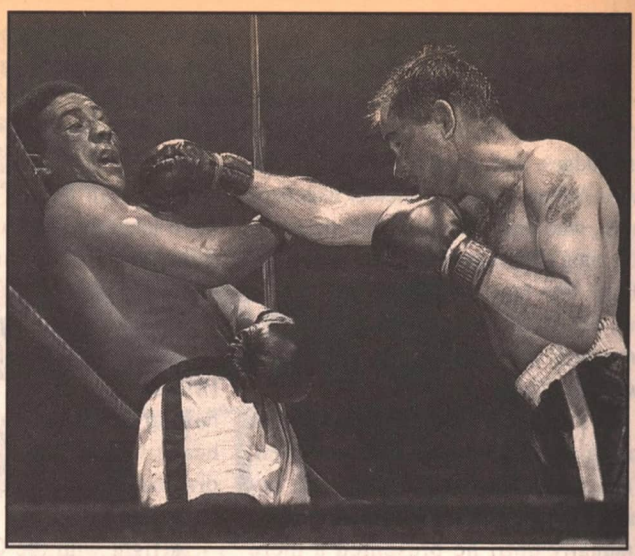
Olson floored his man twice. He toppled him for what might have been the quietus at the end of the ninth round. The bell came at five, but the count went up to eight.

In the 10th, a right to the body, after a fusillade, dropped Randy for nine. He was in very bad shape. But he was game and gave Bobo fair punishment in the last five beats.

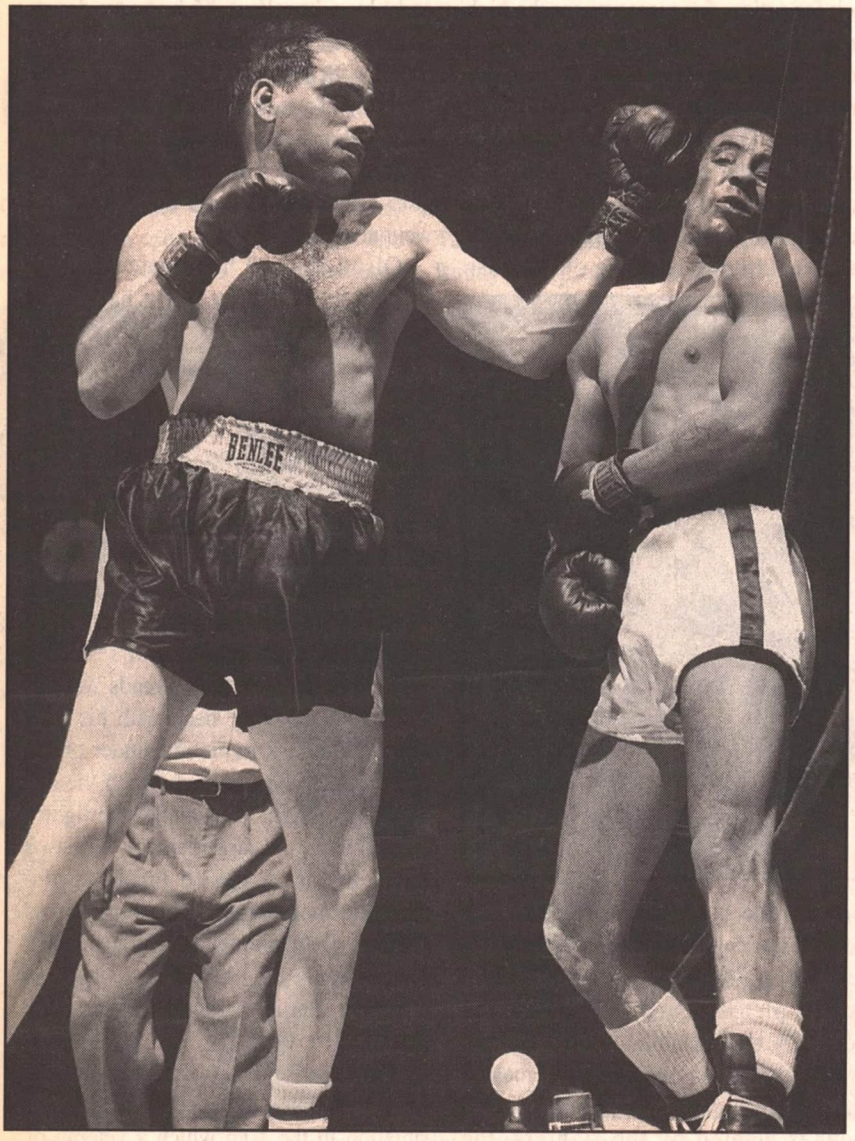
Olson, the balding Hawaiian, won because he was in prime physical condition, took the Briton's strong wallops in the first three rounds without flinching, and came back with his own two-fisted attack in the remainder of the fight to turn the tide and clinch victory by a big margin. Presumably the lighter hitter, he did the most damage. The two knockdowns he scored furnished the dramatic moments in a battle that was exciting, had plenty of suspense, was pretty cleanly fought, and was waged in a manner that appealed to the gathering that filled the Garden.

The surprise of the fight came in the failure of Olson to take advantage of a situation in the 10th which a veteran of his standing should have been quick to grasp. In that round, Olson pinned





*Turpin took the first three rounds (left), but lacked the stamina to maintain his aggressiveness. From the fifth through the 15th, Olson dominated. In the 10th round, Turpin was punished (right) and floored for the second time. He hung on until the final bell, but could make no claim that he deserved the decision.*




*Olson attacks in round 12. Given Turpin's lack of conditioning, it was amazing he went the distance.*

Turpin against the ropes as he had frequently done in previous rounds and unleashed a body barrage.

With nose bleeding and blood coming from his mouth, Turpin bobbed and weaved against the ropes, then went down, took a count of nine, got up, and slid along the ropes until Bobo caught up with him and had a stationary target before him. Turpin was leaning against the ropes for support, as he had done the year before in the 10th round of his fight with Robinson, but unlike Ray, who, when he saw the open target, fired away at Randy's body to bring down his face guard, Olson kept tossing blows at the head while Turpin had no protection for the body. His hands were high and far apart.

Bobo's seconds were quick to see the fighter's error. They screamed at him to hit for the body.

"Step back and hit him in the belly," Sol Gold, one of Bobo's seconds, shouted, but Olson paid no attention. He kept going for the swaying head and thus missed his best chance to win by a knockout. He finally did let one go, but it missed, and Randy was able to maneuver out of the tight spot into which he had gotten himself.

This wasn't the only time Bobo had Randy set for a kayo, but it was his best opportunity. He pinned the Britisher against the ropes four times thereafter, but never again did he get such a chance to end the fight as he did in the 10th.

Olson started to take control in the fourth, and with few exceptions, he gained round after round from that point

to the end. The big surprise toward the finish was the fighting fury displayed by Turpin in the final round, which Randy won. But that one-round triumph didn't help him any toward winning the crown. He was too far behind from the punishing lefts and rights that kept popping his head and body relentlessly for 11 of the last 13 rounds!

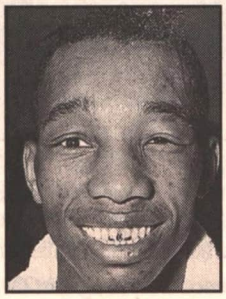
***

From across the halfway mark, it seemed inconceivable that the fight would last the limit because the Briton showed more and more fatigue as the fight went along. That at times he was able to suddenly cut loose with an attack that had his opponent momentarily bewildered, speaks well of his fortitude. To one, who like me, had seen Randy in action in a number of good fights, it indicated that with proper conditioning, Randy's chances for victory would have been at least on a par with those of his opponent. Olson dominated every round he took, but in none did he walk off with the honors by as wide a margin as did Randy with the first three rounds.

The eighth round was Randy's best. He came pretty close to scoring a kayo when he caught the American napping. Bobo received a long right to the jaw that shook his head and caused his knees to sag. That punch might have ended the fight.

But he came through, weathering the storm nicely, and even carrying the fight

## THE RING RATINGS, *January 1954*



*Sandy Saddler*

### HEAVYWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Rocky Marciano,** Brockton, MA

1. **Roland LaStarza**, New York, NY
2. **Nino Valdes**, Cuba
3. **Ezzard Charles**, Cincinnati, OH
4. **Dan Bucceroni**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Earl Walls**, Edmonton, Canada
6. **Don Cockell**, England
7. **Heinz Neuhaus**, Germany
8. **Tommy Harrison**, Oakland, CA
9. **Coley Wallace**, New York, NY
10. **Harry Matthews**, Seattle, WA

### LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Archie Moore,** San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Joey Maxim**, Cleveland, OH
3. **Yolande Pompey**, Trinidad, BWI
4. **Danny Nardico**, Tampa, FL
5. **Gerhard Hecht**, Germany
6. **Billy Smith**, Oakland, CA
7. **Jimmy Slade**, New York, NY
8. **Floyd Patterson**, Brooklyn, NY
9. **Jacques Hairabedian**, France
10. **Alex Buxton**, England

### MIDDLEWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Carl (Bobo) Olson,** Hawaii

1. **Randy Turpin**, England
2. **Rocky Castellani**, Luzerne, PA
3. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Gil Turner**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Joey Giambra**, Buffalo, NY
6. **Ernie Durando**, Bayonne, NJ
7. **Charley Humez**, France
8. **Paddy Young**, New York, NY
9. **Willie Troy**, Washington, D.C.
10. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany

### WELTERWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Kid Gavilan,** Havana, Cuba

1. **Carmen Basilio**, Syracuse, NY
2. **Johnny Bratton**, Chicago, IL
3. **Johnny Saxton**, New York, NY
4. **Ramon Fuentes**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Billy Graham**, New York, NY
6. **Del Flanagan**, St. Paul, MN
7. **Art Aragon**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Freddie Dawson**, Chicago, IL
9. **Gilbert Lavoine**, France
10. **Chico Varona**, Cuba

### LIGHTWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **James Carter,** New York, NY

1. **Wallace (Bud) Smith**, Cincinnati, OH
2. **Orlando Zulueta**, Cuba
3. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
4. **Johnny Gonsalves**, Oakland, CA
5. **Eddie Chavez**, San Jose, CA
6. **Arthur Persley**, Red Crosse, LA
7. **Georgie Araujo**, Providence, RI
8. **Armand Savoie**, Montreal, Canada
9. **Arthur King**, Toronto, Canada
10. **Paddy DeMarco**, Brooklyn, NY

### FEATHERWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Sandy Saddler** (U.S. Army)

1. **Teddy Davis**, Hartford, CT
2. **Willie Pep**, Hartford, CT
3. **Baby Ortiz**, Mexico
4. **Percy Bassett**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Roy Ankarah**, West Africa
6. **Jean Sneyers**, Belgium
7. **Lulu Perez**, Brooklyn, NY
8. **Ray Famechon**, France
9. **Dave Gallardo**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Bill Bossio**, Hartsdale, NY

### BANTAMWEIGHTS

***World Champ:*** **Jimmy Carruthers,** Australia

1. **Robert Cohen**, France
2. **Billy Peacock**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **John Kelly**, Belfast, Ireland
4. **Henry (Pappy) Gault**, Spartanburg, SC
5. **Maurice Sandyron**, France
6. **Chamrern Songkitrat**, Thailand
7. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
8. **Peter Keenan**, Scotland
9. **Orlando Castillo**, Cuba
10. **Raton Macias**, Mexico

### FLYWEIGHTS

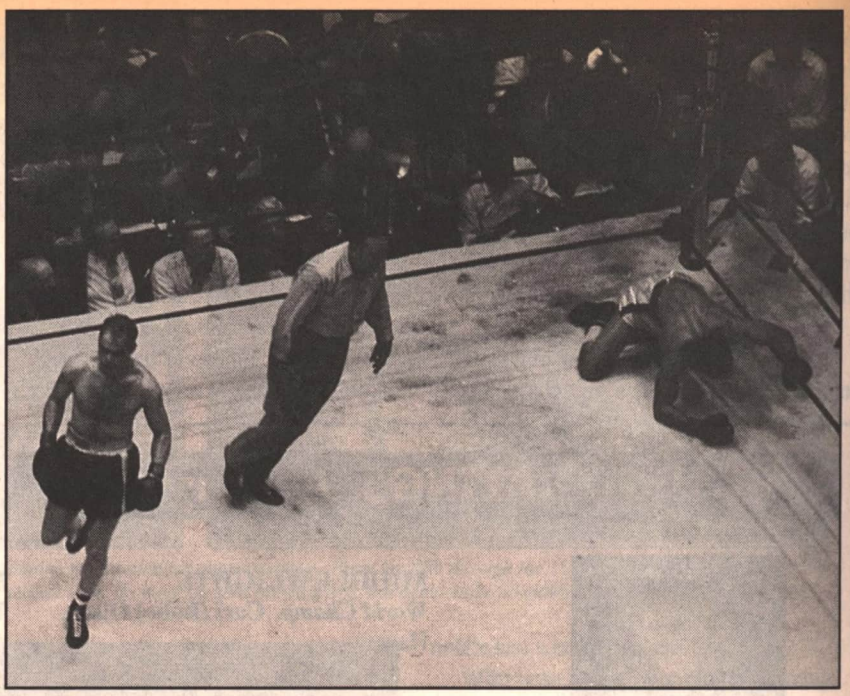
***World Champ:*** **Yoshio Shirai,** Japan

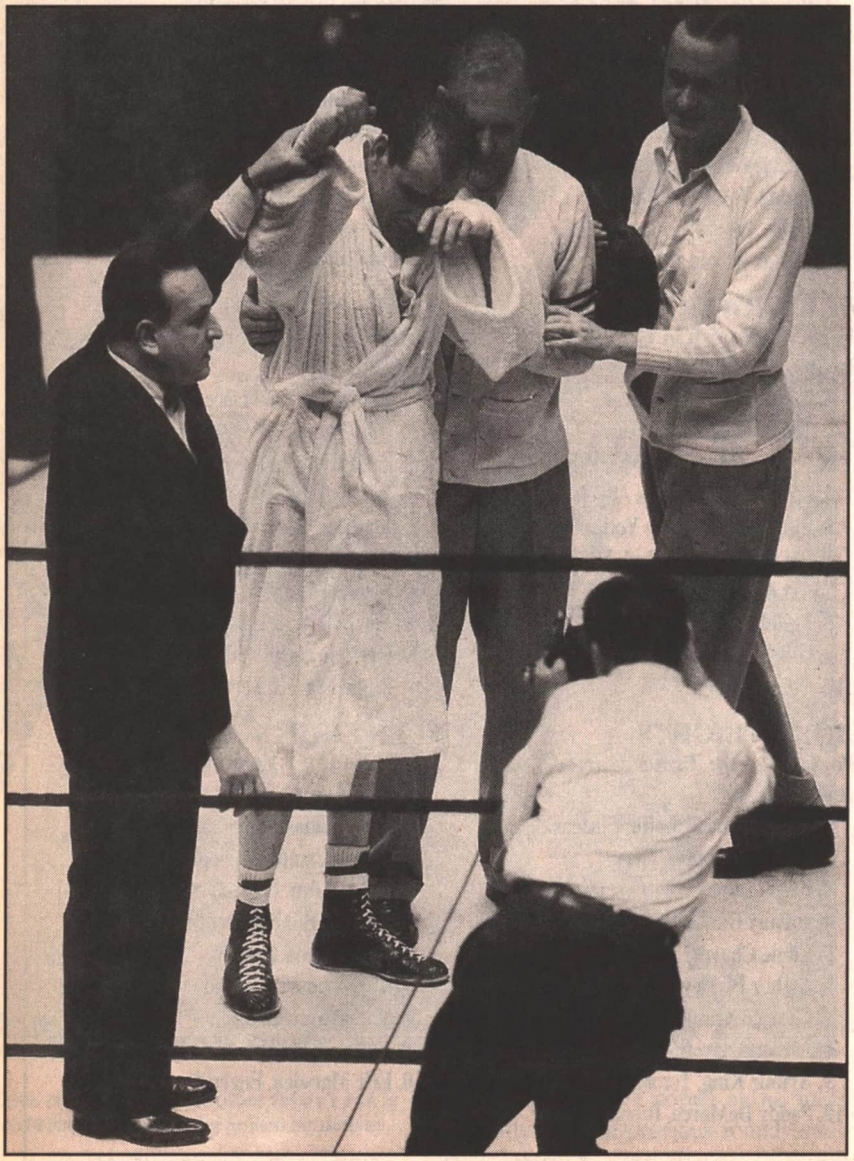
1. **Jake Tuli**, South Africa
2. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
3. **Tanny Campo**, Philippines
4. **Terry Allen**, England
5. **Charley Bohbot**, French Morocco
6. **Louis Skena**, France
7. **Vic Herman**, Scotland
8. **Young Martin**, Spain
9. **Nazzarino Giannelli**, Italy
10. **Eric Marsden**, England

to his opponent in the final 30 seconds. His stamina and courage enabled him to meet the situation. He fought bravely and intelligently—two assets of a good fighter.

One of Turpin's greatest ring assets is his ability, when physically fit, to pull away when attacked, rocking his body back to escape the tossed punches to the head, and while in the act, dropping his hands to protect the body. It's a defense that proved handy in all his previous fights.

Against Olson he couldn't succeed except a few times. So long as Randy has room for maneuvering into position for such action, he's successful. But Bobo had a little trick of his own to prevent this. He either cornered Randy and pounded away at body and head while the Britisher made no attempt to clear out of the





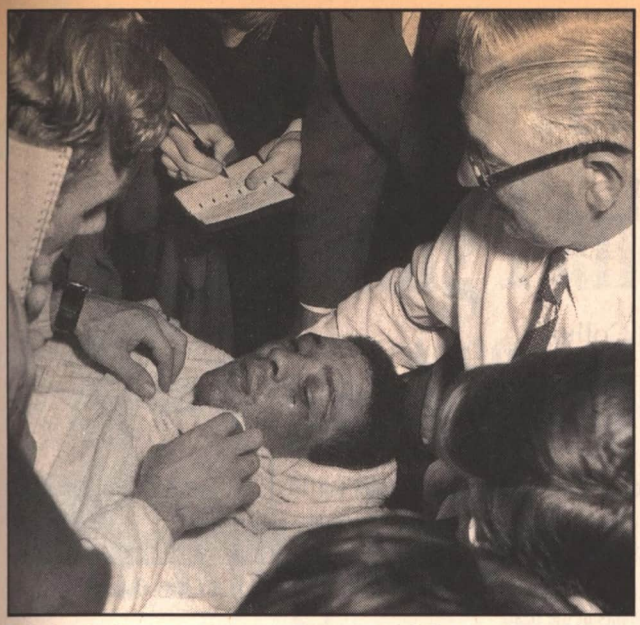
*Left: When ring announcer Johnny Addie raised Olson's hand in victory, the middleweight was overcome with emotion. Above: Here is a bird's eye view of the 10th round knockdown.*

hazard, or pinned Turpin against the ropes midway between the corners and kept him from carrying out that type of defense. It proved that Olson is a finished boxer, a heady fighter who has learned much since he lost his last close battle to Ray Robinson, whom he now succeeds to the throne that has had as its kings some of the greatest middleweights of all-time.

***

Making the weight was the problem child of Turpin, it was generally conceded, because of what he had to undergo when he fought Charley Humez in London, but instead it was Olson who made it by an eyelash. All of which causes one to wonder if he, like others before him, will find the task too great ere long and suffer the consequences. He says no, and so does his capable manager, Sid Flaherty.

The millions who listened to the broadcast of the fight and saw it on television outside of the blackout area wish him well and hope he's not going to face such a task. His busy style, his rugged physique, his faithful adherence to a training schedule, and his will to win paid off in the end. Perhaps Randy Turpin will profit from the example set by his conqueror, should the Britisher continue to ply his trade in the roped square.



*In the loser's dressing room, reporters smothered Turpin, who was beaten, battered, and exhausted. Turpin's left eye shows the punishment he absorbed.*

It was a good, engrossing fight, an exciting affair all the way, and for that everyone associated with it is thankful.

As for Turpin, he said he was beaten by a mental hazard. He blamed his failure on personal affairs that kept him worried. But that's no excuse.

Olson, dubbed the United Nations fighters with the Swedish-American-Portuguese-Hawaiian ancestry, proved himself a skilled mechanic, capable of meeting a situation and quickly adopting the necessary style to combat it with effectiveness. Even though he is generally called a feather-dusted puncher, he twice dropped Turpin, something Ray Robinson couldn't succeed in accomplishing.

For that he must receive the credit due him, despite the fact that Randy displayed ebbing stamina from the fifth round on. It takes more than mere feather-dusting hitting to put even a tired Turpin to the canvas with a whirlwind head attack and one good belly wallop.

No matter what might be said about Turpin's condition, he knew what he was in for. He realized his responsibility to himself, the British public, and the thousands who enabled him to take home a huge payday envelope. Hence we must take nothing away from the man who whipped him fairly, decisively, and who will make a good champion.

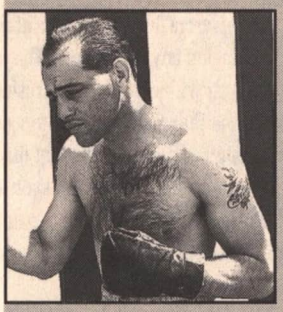
Olson doesn't compare with his predecessor, nor does he hit as hard as did Tony Zale or Rocky Graziano, nor is he a Harry Greb or Mickey Walker, but he'll do. He has what it takes to keep up the public's interest, and that's what we need very badly right now. We doff our hat to the new champion, to whom THE RING will award the World Middleweight Championship Belt.

He was so overwhelmed by his victory that the man who was twice defeated by Sugar Ray Robinson stood in the center of the ring and cried as his hand was raised by Johnny Addie in token of victory, a triumph that brought with it the world middleweight championship.

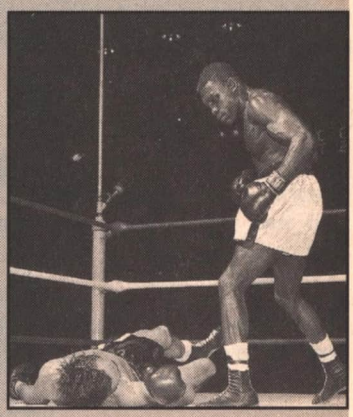
It was a pleasing fight, with each man trying the best he could for the knockout, and the fans went home satisfied. ■

## THE RING, January 1954

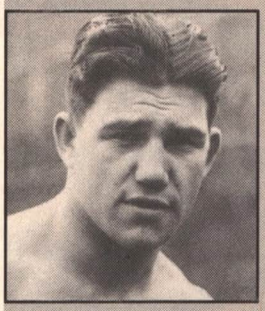
***The Cover:*** Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano, who has established himself with successful 1953 defenses against Jersey Joe Walcott and Roland LaStarza, is the cover subject. His next bout will come against former champion Ezzard Charles.



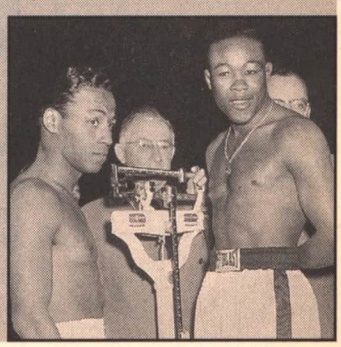
***The New Champ:*** TV Editor Johnny Salak profiles newly crowned middleweight king Bobo Olson, whom he described as "colorless but efficient." Colorless? Among Olson's distinguishing features are his tattoos, which were acquired while he was a member of the Kalili gang in his native Hawaii.



***Moving Up?:*** Ever since Jimmy Carter's one-punch kayo of Armand Savoie in November 1953, insiders have been touting the world lightweight champion as a legitimate threat to welterweight king Kid Gavilan. Carter had lost to Savoie in a non-title fight nine months earlier.



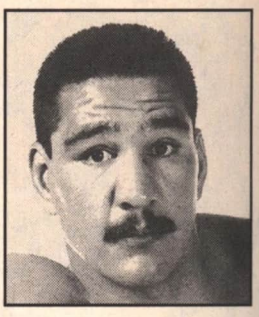
***Left-handed Logic:*** Assistant Editor Jersey Jones examines southpaws and their influence on the fight game. Among the left-handers who are analyzed: Knockout Brown, Jackie Paterson, Lew Tendler, Al McCoy, and Lou Brouillard (pictured).



***Fighter Of The Month:*** Welterweight champion Kid Gavilan is the choice. In November, Gavilan retained the title for the seventh time with a 15-round decision over familiar foe Johnny Bratton. (They're pictured at the weigh-in.) In 1951, Gavilan defeated Bratton to win the title.

# Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood & Nigel Collins



*Lucky Punch?*

## PICKING UP THE PIECES

Alex Garcia was heavily criticized for ascending the heavyweight top 10 without facing any contenders. That ascension ended in June when Mike Dixon, a journeyman with eight losses, crushed the tattooed Californian in two rounds. Be sure of one thing: If Garcia is to again gain title fight consideration, he'll have to beat a tougher grade of opponent than he has in the past.

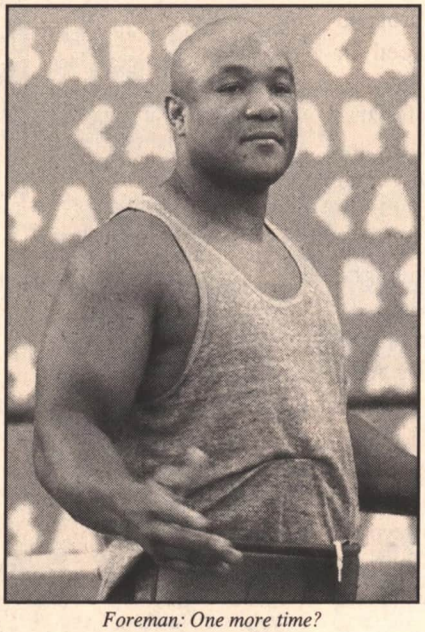
"We're coming right back on the USA Network in July, then at the end of August or the first part of September, we're looking for a name," said Norm Kaplan, Garcia's manager. "Maybe Tony Tubbs, Bert Cooper. Sure the Dixon fight was disappointing. Alex was dominating the fight. It was a lucky punch, and it probably won't happen again."

Team Garcia wanted an immediate rematch, but Kaplan said that Dixon, who made $7,500 for the fight, turned down $25,000.

"He thinks he's gonna get $75,000 to fight Larry Holmes," the manager said.

Looks like Dixon learns fast. Whether Garcia can recover fast will determine his future.

## BIG GEORGE, PART III?



*Foreman: One more time?*

Is there a future in boxing for George Foreman? Will he or won't he fight again? Not even Colonel Sanders knows for sure. But everybody has an opinion, including Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz.

"He'll probably want to come back at some point," Katz theorized one week after Foreman lost a decision to Tommy Morrison. "But I wish he wouldn't. It's so hard for the greats in any sport to bow out gracefully. I remember when Mickey Mantle tried to keep going after his legs were shot. He could hardly swing a bat. It was awful.

"Right now would be the perfect time for George to retire. He would be going out after a big fight against a good, young kid. He's done everything he set out to do except win the title again. But he got his shot, two shots if you want to count the WBO title. Foreman has had such an amazing career, I'd hate to see him become another Larry Holmes, fighting bums on cable. It takes away so much from what these guys accomplished earlier in their careers."

Are you listening, Larry?

## LISTEN UP

There's been lots of talk about Humberto Gonzalez moving up to flyweight. But the WBC rates "Chiquita" first at 108 pounds. That means a rematch vs. Michael Carbajal is his if he wants it ... Don't look now, but the WBC's number-two heavyweight contender is Tony Tucker. Rated first is Evander Holyfield. If WBA/IBF champion Riddick Bowe successfully defends against Holyfield, Tucker would presumably move into the WBC's top spot and become the mandatory challenger for Lennox Lewis. Lewis-Tucker II? Ugh! ■

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**No Foul Protector**-Used by amateurs & pros. **#RPNF $45.** No hip style, **#RPNF-1 $40.** Mexican style **#RPNF-2 $38. #GAP #12** Sizes S,M,L,XL.

**Mouthpieces**-Black Beauty **$3.99.** Mouthpiece Safe. **#MS** pictured, but also available. **#801 80c.** Double. **#799 $2.**

**Professional Workout Gym**-The possiblities are endless with this gym. Room for 4 hanging bags & 2 speed bags. Comes equiped with 2 pull-up bars & a dip bar. **#PWG $399.** Add $50 to shipping charge at bottom of page.

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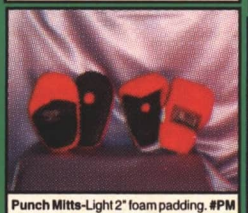

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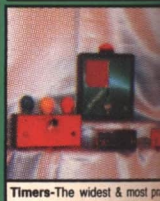

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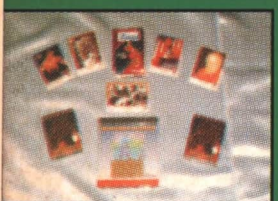

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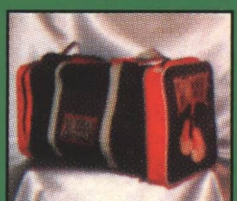

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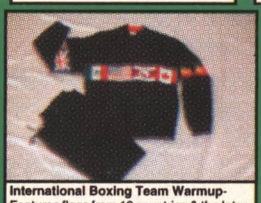

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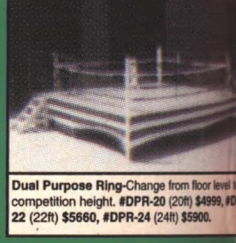

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